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Champion
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Civic Hall hosts talent showcase

Charity raffle prize is good enough to eat!

Family's unusual Christmas plea

Jude Givens pictured during a trip to Ormskirk Hospital earlier this year

THE family of a little boy with a life–limiting hereditary condition are asking people NOT to send Christmas cards this year.

Instead they are urging them to use the money they would have spent on cards and postage to make a donation to the Cystic Foundation Trust, which funds research into cystic fibrosis.

The appeal is being made by Katie Givens, founder of promotional group, Love Ormskirk, whose four–year–old son, Jude suffers from the disease which mainly affects the lungs, pancreas and liver.

Jude has to take up to 40 tablets a day, as well as undergoing daily two–hour physio sessions, to help him control the condition.

His uncle, Simon Givens, from Ormskirk has set up a page for Jude on online charity donation website JustGiving asking for donations to the Cystic Foundation Trust

The family are hoping to raise more than £2,000 and have already reached the £1,400 mark with the help of generous family, friends and colleagues.

• Continued inside

CHURCH APPEAL HITS £100,000!

By **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of a congregation are celebrating after raising the first £100,000 towards a challenging three–part repair programme for a historic Grade II listed church.

St Anne's Church in Prescot Road, Ormskirk suffered extensive damage early last year caused by water pouring in through a leak in the roof.

Due to the 164–year–old building's age and listed status, renovation work has to be carried out to exact specifications.

After the plight of the church was featured in the Champion in March 2014, parish priest Father Godric Timney formed a fundraising committee and the St Anne's Church Roof Appeal was officially launched, charged with the daunting task of raising the £500,000 needed.

In September 2014, a thermometer–style gauge was put up outside the church enabling members of the public to keep track of how the appeal was progressing.

The committee raised £50,000 by April, enabling the first stage of the repairs, dubbed 'first aid', to go ahead, making the church weather–proof and addressing immediate issues.

The second, 'renewal' phase will address roof coverings and supporting structures, while the third, 'care and maintenance' phase, will cover techniques for ensuring the roof remains in good order.

Appeal chairman, Phil Wilkinson, told the Champion: "We have been helped greatly by the fundraising efforts of pupils from St Anne's RC Primary School who raised a considerable mount of money and, as they pushed us over the £100,000 mark, we invited pupils to colour in the thermometer up to the mark

"The whole community has really worked together to raise this fantastic total.

"We have had some great musical events including the Maghull Wind Orchestra in the summer and the WirrOrleans Jazz Band in autumn, while the Occasional Singers performed a lovely Christmas Carol concert in the church a week ago.

"We have also had theatrical productions, afternoon teas and educational talks and one of our former priests, Father Benjamin, was sponsored to walk 177 miles from Chepstow to Llangollen to help the cause.

"We even have a couple in the parish who have held social events in their home almost monthly to raise money.

"Our old historic church really is at the centre of our vibrant parish community. We are all determined to restore the roof so we can continue to grow our community activities. We still have a long way to go but I know we'll get there.

"We are very busy at the moment preparing for some important grant applications in the New Year, which should help us to move faster towards our £500,000 target and we'll soon be revealing our exciting programme of events for 2016 which should have something that everyone will enjoy."

St Anne''s RC Primary deputy headteacher Annette Birmingham and pupils Peter, Joseph, Frankie and Katie fill in the roof appeal 'thermometer' Code1086729

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Festive period opening times for council services

WEST Lancs Council have released information on the hours that services will operate across the borough during the festive period.

The council offices at Derby Street, Ormskirk, and in Skelmersdale will close at noon on Christmas Eve (Thursday, December 24) and re–open at 9am on Monday, January 4.

Other services will operate as follows:

• Customer services – telephone enquiries. The Customer Contact Centre will close at noon on December 24 and re–open at 8.30am on Monday, January 4. The phone number remains the same for emergency calls when the offices are closed 01695 577177. Details can also be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk.

• Revenues and benefits service. The revenues and benefits service will close at noon on December 24 and re–open at 8.30am on Monday, January 4. You can still make payments during this period by using the automated telephone payment line available 24 hours a day on 01695 585150 or by visiting the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk.

• Emergency housing services. Emergency repairs will be carried out over the holiday period and tenants who require an emergency repair should telephone 01695 577177. For all other housing emergencies (including homelessness), please telephone the same number 01695 577177.

• Refuse and recycling. Over the Christmas and New Year period, collection dates have changed from those printed on the calendar sent out last year. A leaflet highlighting the revised dates is being issued to all households. For a copy of your revised collection calendar and more details on refuse and recycling collections over the festive period, please visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse. Please note that all green bin collections will be suspended week commencing December 21 and week commencing December 28 but other materials for recycling will be collected.

• Chapel Gallery. The Chapel Gallery will be closed from noon on Thursday, December 24 and will re–open on Tuesday, January 5.

• Beacon Park Golf Centre. The Beacon Park Golf Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Reduced opening times will be in operation over the festive period.

• Car parks – pay and display. Pay and display car park regulations will not apply on Friday and Monday, December 25 and 28, and Friday, January 1.

• Ormskirk Market. There will be extra markets on Wednesday and Monday, December 16 and 21 but no market on Saturday, December 26. There will be markets as normal on Thursday, December 31 and Saturday, January 2.

• West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust. Reduced opening times will be in operation over the festive period.

Music night boost for mayor's charities

AN evening of musical entertainment at Aughton Village Hall organised by local music teacher and charity worker, Eunice Woof MBE, raised a total of £373 for two causes supported by Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Nikki Hennessy.

The money wil be split between the Lancashire Young Carers, which works with children under the age of 18 who look after family members with difficulties ranging from physical and mental health issues to drug and alcohol addictions, and the Central and West Lancs office of the Alzheimer's Society.

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Longer visiting times at local hospitals after successful trial

FRIENDS and family will be able to spend much longer with patients at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals from Friday (December 18).

Wards will open for visiting at midday and stay open until 8.30pm, seven days a week.

The decision follows a successful trial at Southport Hospital earlier this year.

Director of nursing and quality, Simon Featherstone, said: "The support and company of friends and family is an important part of any patient's recovery but traditional visiting times don't always fit around people's working lives and personal commitments.

Flexible

"We also know some visitors want to play a more active role in the care of the patient they're visiting, such as helping at meal times and providing a familiar voice in unfamiliar surroundings, so I hope this more flexible approach will help them."

And he added: "To make this work, we also need visitors to help us too. We ask that there should be only two visitors per bed and, from time to time we may ask visitors to leave the bedside during personal care for patients or consultant ward rounds."

Talent show raises £350 for charity

THE first Disability Awareness and Additional Needs Talent Showcase staged at Ormskirk Civic Hall raised £350 for charity.

Organised by Caroline Derbyshire, voice coach and owner of CD Music Academy in Rufford, the event was compered by Sky TV's Neil Newton and featured performances by CD Music Academy pupils, West Lancs dance group Divine Days, singers and gymnasts from Spartac Gymnastics Club based at Edge Hill University and dancers from Base Dance Academy in Ormskirk.

Caroline said: "It was a great night and the performances were fantastic. Now we're looking forward to putting on our next Disney–themed showcase in Liverpool in April."

Proceeds from all concerts go to the Community Link Foundation, which supports local children with an ongoing illness or disease, local sports teams and community groups needing equipment.

For more information, contact 07970896943.

Caroline Derbyshire (left) and compère Neil Newton (right) with some of the CD Music Academy members at the Rising Stars UK Disability Awareness and Additional Needs Showcase Code1086548

Suspended jail sentence for driver who fled accident scene

By Our **Court Reporter**

THE driver of a transit van involved in a serious road traffic collision with another vehicle fled the scene of the accident with his girlfriend, despite the driver of the other vehicle pleading for help, a court has been told.

Ormskirk Magistrates Court heard a 26–year–old woman was driving to Southport in her Peugeot along Southport New Road, Tarleton in the early hours of October 11 when a transit van entered the 50mph dual–carriage "very quickly" from Black Gate Lane causing her to swerve.

The woman was unable to avoid hitting the passenger side of the van and after losing control of her car rolled on for approximately 100 metres down the road colliding with trees and road furniture.

James McCabe, 24, of George Lane, Banks, pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention, failing to stop after an accident and failing to report an accident.

Reading from the woman's victim impact statement, prosecutor Adrian Hollanby said that after she came to rest she could see someone exit the transit van from the passenger side and shouted for help. The person ignored the cries, however, and disappeared behind the van.

"As soon as my car started to lose control, I straightened my arms and closed my eyes then felt the car hit several objects," the woman said. "At one point I knew it was not upright and felt like I was upside down on a roller coaster.

"I could see the damage to the passenger side of the van", she said. "Then I saw the passenger door of the van open which I thought it wouldn't be able to because of the damage.

"I started to shout out 'Please help me' at the top of my voice several times. They just looked over and turned and ran around the back of the van and I didn't see them again."

The woman was still shouting when a taxi pulled up, she said, and added: "There was no way that person in the van did not hear me."

She was left with a fractured C7 vertebrae and bruising to her right shin, left arm and shoulder and has to wear a neck brace for 12 weeks. She is in constant pain, had to give up a new job and requires assistance from her mother with personal hygiene, Mr Hollanby said.

He told the court that McCabe's neglect to check on the other driver was a seriously aggravating feature of the offence and said that it wasn't until eight days after the accident that he handed himself into a police station.

Solicitor Kerry Doyle said McCabe had been unaware that the driver of the other vehicle had been in difficulty. She said that he'd earlier received an intimidating text message from a friend who'd found out he'd had an affair with his wife.

He'd then left the house with his girlfriend, Ms Doyle said, and it was while he was on his way to Liverpool, believing that he was being followed, that he ran into the woman.

He thought the car he collided with was the man following him. "He did not hear the lady cry out for help", she said. "He just panicked because of the circumstances. He is extremely remorseful when he considers the circumstances of this lady."

The magistrates handed him a 12–week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and ordered that he undertake 260 hours of unpaid work. They also imposed an eight–week 7pm–7am curfew, banned him from driving for six months and ordered that he pay £315 in costs.

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Family's unusual festive appeal

• continued from Page 1

Now they are hoping that people opting to make donations rather than send Christmas cards will help them reach and surpass their target.

Mum, Katie, said: "The trust is a small charity but the donations given to them go towards key research that will hopefully mean that in Jude's lifetime there will be a cure – at the moment the average life expectancy is 40.

"Jude is an amazing little boy who takes this life–limiting disease in his stride, I'm so proud of him.

"Research is already achieving some good results with certain mutations of the disease, but, like all these things, funding is essential.

"My brother started the fundraising page a few weeks ago and it's doing really well. But we thought that an appeal at a time of the year when giving is at the forefront of people's minds might boost the total."

• To donate, go to www.justgiving.com /Simon–Givens

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Residents urged to steer clear of loan sharks

IF you're having money troubles this Christmas don't be tempted to borrow cash from loan sharks. That's the message to residents from West Lancs Council.

Loan sharks are illegal money lenders who often target low–income families and while they might seem friendly at first, borrowing money from them is never a good idea – even if your credit rating is poor or you only need a small amount for a short while.

You will pay far more in interest than through any legal borrowing, some loan sharks may resort to intimidation and violence and borrowers are pressured into borrowing more to repay one debt with another.

West Lancs Council offers a free, independent and confidential Rent and Money Advice Service to all its tenants. Advisers can help with debt problems and offer advice on a range of subjects including managing bills, claiming benefits, and negotiating debt payment programmes. They can also advise on alternatives other than resorting to loan sharks.

For more details visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/moneyadvice. To use the service call the team on 01695 585252, or email money.advice@westlancs.gov.uk.

Alternatively council tenants can drop in to the council's customer service point at the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 1pm for rent and money advice.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, the council's cabinet member for housing, said: "The festive season can be a time when we want to treat our family with nice presents or really go all out to make Christmas Day special. If you are short of money and struggling for credit then going to a loan shark can be a tempting option. But in the long run this can create massive problems for you and your family, so please call our Rent and Money Advice Service so you don't fall into the loan shark trap."

Although some loan sharks might threaten you with prosecution if you don't pay, this is not true. As unlicensed lenders they have no legal right to recover the debt. Any lender – licensed or unlicensed – who harasses you is breaking the law.

To report a loan shark problem and get help call the hotline on 0300 555 2222; email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or text LOAN SHARK and the lender's details to 60003.

College charity Christmas market

WEST Lancashire College are holding their annual charity Christmas Market and Santa today (Wednesday, December 16) and are inviting the local community to come along.

This will be held at the college's Skelmersdale campus in College Way from noon to 4pm and there will be the opportunity to buy handmade crafts and treats made by learners and local craftspeople, including cards and jewellery, ceramics, wreaths, calendars and more.

For further details contact Student Services on 01695 52300 or go to the website www.westlancs.ac.uk.

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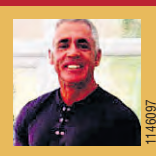

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1139563

Sleep–out challenge raises £3,000–plus to help homeless

By **Danielle Thompson**

CHURCH members from across West Lancashire raised more than £3,000 as well as reinforcing the 'true meaning of Christmas' by taking part in a sleep–out challenge to raise money and awareness for a charity for the homeless.

Twenty volunteers from churches across the borough slept under a marquee with 'minimal comforts' near to the Ormskirk clock tower as part of the Advent Sleepout Challenge from 7pm last Saturday (December 12) until 7am the following day.

Members of St Anne's RC Church, Ormskirk Parish Church, Cottage Lane Mission, Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church, Ormskirk Christian Fellowship and Christ Church Aughton, took part in the national initiative led by the Church Urban Fund, a charity set up by the Church of England to help deprived communities.

The sleep–out event aimed to reflect the Bible Christmas story of Mary and Joseph who found no room at the inn and took shelter in a stable where baby Jesus was born.

The Ormskirk group also held a collection of clean clothes and blankets to be given to the homeless community and refugees in the UK and abroad.

Stuart Haynes, director of communications for the Diocese of Liverpool, told the Champion: "Around 20 volunteers braved a cold and frosty night to raise money and awareness for refugees and the work of those supporting the homeless. It gave them some insight of the difficulties rough sleepers face at this time of year.

"The team would like to thank the people of Ormskirk for donating £688 during the day, which will be added to the £2,500 those on the sleep–out raised through personal sponsorship."

Dave Mutch, from Ormskirk Christian Fellowship, added: "It was a cold night – colder than we expected – which highlighted the real difficulties encountered by those forced to sleep rough. We at least had the comfort of knowing a warm, secure home awaited us later, they don't.

"We would like to thank the Ormskirk people who have contributed so generously and pray that all donations make a real difference to those in need."

Mel Howard with members of the 1st Ormskirk Beaver pack

Eager Beavers learn about dementia

A NURSING manager was invited to give a talk on dementia to young members of a local Beaver group as part of a national Scout campaign to remove the barriers of living with the disorder.

Mel Howard, quality assurance manager at Stocks Hall Nursing and Care Group, spoke to members of the 1st Ormskirk Beaver pack on the issues around dementia as part of the 'A Million Hands' project.

The informative talk aimed at helping the youngsters, aged six to eight, to get an understanding of the condition. It was followed by a quiz and ended with the children pledging how they could help those living with the condition, as well as their loved ones.

Mel said: "To talk with the children was a great privilege. We should never underestimate children's compassion and how they will take their action forward. The 1st Ormskirk Beaver Pack were enthusiastic and eager to help and I was grateful I could pass on information in this way."

Chance to bag a bargain and help a good cause!

SHOPPERS are being urged to bag themselves a bargain and help a worthy cause at the same time by buying some of their Christmas gifts at the Salvation Army charity shop in Ormskirk.

Staff at the shop in Aughton Street have made a special effort this year with a creative festive window display and a host of gifts, toys, books, decorations and clothing that eagle–eyed volunteers and staff have 'cherry–picked' from items donated over the last 12 months and saved up especially for Christmas.

Ann Penny, area manager for the Salvation Army Trading Company, said: "This year the Ormskirk shop has gone to town on its Christmas displays and there are some wonderful gems to be found.

"Christmas–themed donations and decorations are often nearly brand new, so whether it's a set of mix–and–match baubles, a Christmas jumper, or even a reindeer onesie, there will be something for everyone.

"For many, Christmas can be hard to afford, so it's good to know that by spending a little with us this festive season you could find your perfect Christmas presents while helping The Salvation Army make a big difference to people's lives."

Chef Antony Shirley with the gingerbread house

Sweet charity at the double!

STAFF at a local hostelry have created a special gingerbread house to auction off for two local charities.

The team at the Town Green Brasserie in Aughton will raffle the sweet treat on Friday (December 18) with the proceeds being divided between Queenscourt Hospice and The Legacy Rainbow House charity in Mawdesley.

Brasserie general manager, Dan Mcdonald, said: "We wanted to do something fun for our customers while also raising money for two great charities."

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1146691

Fears for borough's wild birds after 17 crows found shot!

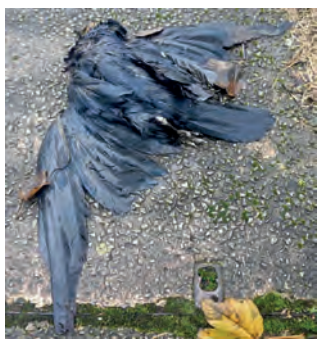
By **Danielle Thompson**

A LOCAL businessman believes people armed with guns could be targetting crows after finding 17 of the slaughtered birds by the side of a road.

And he fears that if the culprits are doing it for 'sport' they could move on to target other species, including birds of prey or the wildfowl which frequently pass through West Lancashire en route to and from the Martin Mere reserve at Burscough.

Mike Armitage, who runs diving equipment supplier Northern Diver at the East Quarry in Appley Bridge, made the grim discovery of the 17 dead crows while travelling between Christ Church on Parbold Hill and Appley Lane North and he is concerned that local pheasant shooters might have moved on to killing other birds for sport, which is illegal.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects crows, as well as all other wild birds in the UK. This means that it is illegal to take, injure or kill a crow, or



One of the dead crows found by Mike Armitage

to take, damage or destroy an active nest or its contents.

Landowners or occupiers can apply for a General Licence to kill wild birds, including crows, to prevent damage or disease, for health or safety or for conservation purposes, but the law requires that non–lethal methods should be tried first to resolve the conflict.

Mike Armitage said: "Whoever killed these birds appears to have done it for 'fun' as they have left the carcasses at the side of the road. The killings were pointless.

"The carcasses are peppered with pellets, they were definitely shot. I don't think that anyone should be shooting birds of any kind, including pheasants, for no reason. They should only be hunted if the person intends to eat them.

"The kind of person who just starts shooting at whatever birds they can see obviously has no respect for the law and could be shooting at anything, including rabbits, birds of prey and local protected species, which we have many of due to our proximity to Martin Mere.

"We have a healthy population of buzzards, which my grandchildren love to spot and it would be horrific to think they could be next."

Chris Collett from the Royal Society for the Protection for Birds (RSPB) told the Champion: "There are certain circumstances under a General Licence where certain species, including crows, can be legally controlled.

"However, they cannot be shot at for sport. That is illegal.

"Without knowing who was shooting them or why, we cannot say if these crows were shot legally or not."

Vinny Commons Soccer School

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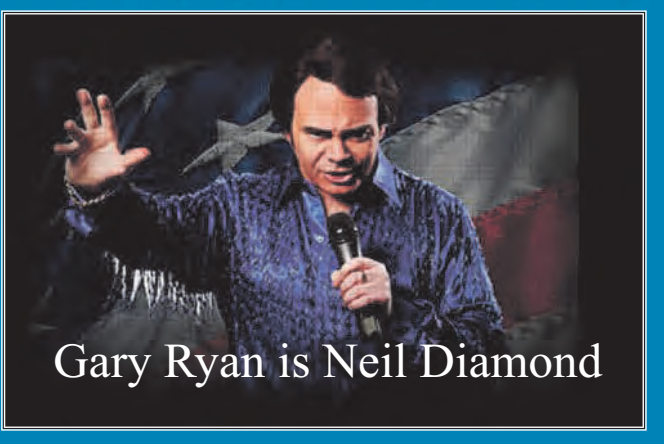

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Honorary degree for broadcaster

AWARD–winning journalist and broadcaster, Ranvir Singh, has received an honorary degree from Edge Hill University.

In her acceptance speech, Ranvir, who is currently appearing on ITV's Good Morning Britain programme, warned graduates against being "dazzled by the glamour of television" and advised budding media professionals to be realistic about the industry.

Ms Singh is no stranger to the Ormskirk campus, having visited numerous times whilst working for North West Tonight.

"I'd visited Edge Hill before but continue to be impressed by the exemplary nature of what's on offer here. I've never seen anything like the media centre, Creative Edge – there are working TV stations in the industry that don't have that level of equipment!

Ranvir Singh

"Everything is slick and professional and the learning environment is so similar to real working life it's no surprise to me that the university has such an outstanding graduate employment record."

Ms Singh said she was proud to reflect the ideals and values of Edge Hill and added: "I plan to be a proud ambassador for Edge Hill University and I'm looking forward to coming back regularly to share my passion and experience with the next generation of media professionals."

Support available for victims of domestic abuse

Report by **Henry James**

THE West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership is sending a message to victims of domestic abuse during the festive period that help is available.

Last year police in West Lancashire recorded more cases of domestic abuse crimes in December than in any other month of the year.

Over the last 12 months there were 134 cases of domestic abuse in the borough where someone was charged for the case to proceed to court.

In 50% of domestic violence cases, children can be affected too – either by being subjected to it themselves or by witnessing it.

The Liberty Centre in West Lancashire received nearly 850 referrals between January and September 2015 – many referred by the police or other agencies, while others referred themselves.

More than a third were deemed to be at a medium or high risk of domestic violence and the centre is currently supporting 80 to 85 families a month.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for health and community safety, said: "If you are reading this and think you are a victim of domestic abuse, or you think someone else may be a victim, please talk to someone you trust; or you can call the police, or the Liberty Centre or a national helpline.

"It is important to stress that while more than 80 per cent of victims in domestic violence cases are women, men are also the victims of domestic abuse."

Details about services available for victims of domestic violence can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/domesticviolence.

West Lancashire police inspector June Chessell said: "We cannot allow victims of domestic abuse to suffer. We will act to bring perpetrators to justice whenever we can and will work with our partner agencies to support victims to leave abusive relationships."

The Liberty Centre has a free, confidential 24–hour helpline number 0808 100 3062 which is open to callers over the Christmas period. The centre's confidential counselling and legal advice services for victims will open every day except the bank holidays. A full service will be provided throughout the festive period at The West Lancashire Women's Refuge which offers short–term emergency accommodation.

Eleanor Maddocks, chief executive of the Liberty Centre, said: "Domestic Violence does not stop because it's Christmas.

"For too many women and children, it will be a time of living with intimidation, fear and violence. The Christmas period, which is meant to be a time of happiness and joy, is often the most difficult time for them."

Victims of domestic violence or abuse who prefer not to use the phone can now contact The Liberty Centre via www.facebook.com and www.thelibertycentre.org.uk.

The Broken Rainbow national helpline numbers for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are 0800 999 5428, and 0300 999 5428.

The police can be contacted on their non–emergency number 101 specifying your location. In an emergency ring 999.

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David coins it in for autism charity

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

AN expert coin collector has raised more than £1,000 to help people with autism by saving up old unwanted holiday currency and discarded coins that are no longer legal tender.

David Regan, who is chairman of the Ormskirk and West Lancashire Numismatic Society, has dealt in coins, medals, precious metals and historical artefacts since 1983 and decided to support the charity Autism Initiatives after spotting an advertisement for it in a cafe near to his business premises in Southport

He told the Champion: "The Great Little Place café where I go regularly have a slogan 'Great Coffee, for a Great Reason' so I asked what the reason was.

"When I heard about the charity behind the slogan and the great work they do supporting people with autism I offered to help."

David raises funds through scrapping old copper coins, discontinued currency and old holiday change that customers and members of the general public bring into his shop.

Delighted

He added: "When someone brings me old coins to appraise I let them know what is valuable and share my expertise. Where there are coins of no value, like old pennies and old holiday change, I give people the option to take these home or donate them to charity.

"I wait until I have more than 50 kilos of coins and then take them to scrap dealers donating all the proceeds to charity."

Sue Yarnell, manager of Great Little Place cafes, said: "We are delighted that David has chosen to support our work.

David pictured with his coin collection

"Every penny raised helps local people with autism and their families and we simply couldn't do this without people like David and his customers making donations."

Autism Initiatives provides a diverse range of services and activities to more than 3,000 adults, young people and children with autism spectrum condition across the UK and Ireland.

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Slow cooked brisket in mulled wine with parsnip and potato crush, roast chestnuts and rosemary

Roast hake with creamed leeks and sprouts, porcini crumb and crispy gnocchi

(v) Lentil cottage pie with root vegetable mash, tomato and beetroot salad

Puddings

Christmas roly poly with traditional brandy sauce

Spiced tangerine brûlée with fig rolls

Goosnargh Gold and Cropwell Bishop with festive fig and plum chutney, water biscuits and oatcakes

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

CHAMPION NEWSPAPERS
Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA
Telephone 01704 392 400
editor@champnews.com

Properly enforced, new traffic regulations make town centre safer and more welcoming

LAST week you published a story claiming that the pedestrianisation of Ormskirk town centre makes it impossible for elderly and disabled people to access essential services.

The same complaint was made to Ormskirk Community Partnership by the same person at the beginning of November.

The partnership was concerned because the new traffic regulation orders are intended to improve conditions in the town centre for all pedestrians, and especially the elderly and disabled.

The original complaint specifically named the business which the complainant said was inaccessible so I contacted the manager to see if they knew about the problem.

I was told that they had received no complaints and that they support the new regulations.

The firm is open seven days a week and, on weekdays, is open from before 9am until 6pm so appointments can be made outside the hours when access is prohibited.

Furthermore, they provide consultations at home for people who cannot easily come into town – a full service that offers the same range of options as is available in their shop.

We explained all this in our reply to the complainant, so we are quite surprised that she is still claiming that 'facilities in Ormskirk are off limits to the elderly.'

Ormskirk Community Partnership remains convinced that clearer traffic regulations, properly enforced, create a safer and more welcoming environment for shoppers, visitors and local businesses.

Bryan Pready, committee member, Ormskirk Community Partnership

Drop us a line...

• IF you've got a point of view on a topic of local or national interest, we'd like to hear from you.

Letters, preferably no longer than 300 words maximum, can be sent or emailed to the addresses at the top of this page and should include a name and contact details. This is for verification purposes only. Should you prefer to withhold your details from appearing in the paper please include a suitable nom de plume.

Please note that the Editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Government should fund our bus services

CONCERNING the threat to bus services as the county council tries to balance its books, thanks to the government's cuts caused mainly by the criminal behaviour of the banks.

Bus services should be under the umbrella of the transport department in the government, they have more than enough money bled from drivers which could easily include the whole of the transport infrastructure and still have money left over.

Instead they chose to make people who rely on public transport second–class citizens.

They give out passes for people to use public transport and then take away the services and try to blame local councils.

Stephen Bennett, Ashurst, Skelmersdale

New logo says it all!

I WAS prompted to write after reading the article by Danielle Thompson in the Champion (December 9) about the difficulty one reader had in helping her 92–year–old mother to a hearing centre in Church Street and the highways manager for Lancashire County Council's reply that car parks are not far away, even though the elderly lady could not walk that distance.

It reminds me of the former and present 'logos' for Lancashire. The former one was 'Lancashire – a place where everyone matters', whereas the present one is 'Lancashire – welcomes careful drivers'.

Graham Govan, by email

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Santas on the run

There was some fundraising fun on Sunday for the hundreds who took part in the seasonal Santa Sprint – a two kilometre jaunt starting at Southport Pier in aid of Queenscourt Hospice.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

Code: 1086667

What do they think council tax is for?

RE: The recent article about West Lancs Council considering charging for collecting grass, it was this council that forced us into the recycling issuing green bins, do they not realise that this will cause fly–tipping of green waste?

I, for one, will go back to the days of putting it in a bag and taking it to the tip as I used to.

Oh, do you think they will charge you to do that?

What do they think we pay council tax for?

D. F., by email

Let's hear it for Pleasure Folk!

I WOULD like to thank everyone involved with Ormskirk Pleasure Folk for continuing to provide such wonderful live entertainment in Ormskirk Civic Hall.

It obviously takes a great deal of work – and not just from the performers – to put on two shows a year of such a high standard.

Three generations of our family equally enjoyed this year's panto and we look forward to Oliver in April.

Norma Hurst, Southport Road, Ormskirk

Thanks for your help in the ongoing fight against meningitis

WITH Christmas and the New Year upon us we would like to pass on our thanks to everyone in Lancashire who has supported Meningitis Now during 2015.

It is only through people's kindness and generosity that we're able to fight the disease on all fronts – funding preventative research, raising awareness and supporting survivors and their families.

With your continued support we're determined to drive towards our vision in 2016, where no one dies of meningitis and everyone affected receives the support they need to rebuild their lives.

2015 has been a landmark year in the fight against meningitis, with the introduction of the lifesaving meningitis B vaccine for babies. This could, over the next decade, prevent over 4,000 children under the age of five contracting the disease.

We've also seen the ACWY vaccine introduced for young people aged 17 and 18 (school year 13) and older university entrants (aged 19 to 25) – another at–risk group.

This is no small achievement, but the battle to beat the killer disease is far from over. Meningitis can strike anyone at any time. Our Freephone helpline on 0808 80 10 388 will be open throughout the festive period.

To donate, or for a free symptoms information pack or more information, please visit www.MeningitisNow.org.

Sue Davie, chief executive, Meningitis Now.

Dog mess disgust!

I FEEL I have to write to you regarding irresponsible dog owners in my village of Crawford.

I have, with my friends, walked and cleared up after my dogs for many years. Such a simple thing to do.

In the last three weeks though dog mess has been left on the pavement near the playing field and the path leading to our village school.

It's the same mess (large dog) every day and I'm so disgusted.

Children walk up to the school and mums with prams. And the path is too narrow at the top of the village anyway and I've seen people actually having to go into the road to avoid the hedges and dog mess.

If you print this letter perhaps whoever is doing this will actually begin to clear up after their dog.

Disgusted, Crawford

Free parking is the way to go

THE best town centre strategy for Ormskirk is free car parks.

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David Gordon, Ormskirk

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Local author is back in print after 19 years

A BOOK by a local military historian and author is being reprinted – almost 20 years after it was first released.

Bryan Perrett from Ormskirk served in the Royal Tank Regiment and was awarded the Territorial Decoration medal for long service. His work, 'Impossible Victories', revisits battles from conflicts ranging from the Peninsula War of 1811 to Vietnam in 1967, focussing on battlefield strategies and tactics.

Originally published in 1996 by Arms and Armour, it has now been reprinted by publishers Pen and Sword.

Council to consult on Combined Authority plan

Report by **Henry James**

COUNCILLORS in West Lancashire are to discuss whether they want to 'team up' with other councils across Lancashire to create a Combined Authority.

The borough council will debate the proposals at a meeting today (Wednesday, December 16).

Councillors will be asked to note the progress made so far and decide on whether they want to agree in principle to the Combined Authority and take part in a public consultation early in the new year.

Leader of the council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "A Combined Authority would see all the Lancashire councils work closer together on key issues such as jobs, housing and transport links, providing a stronger voice for us all, and gaining extra powers from government. There is an opportunity for West Lancashire Borough Council to become part of this new authority and we will consider all the issues at the council meeting."

All 12 district councils in Lancashire, as well as Lancashire County Council and the two unitary authorities, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool councils, have been involved in the process.

Each of the councils is expected to take a report to their full council between now and Christmas.

Councillor Ian Moran

Hyndburn, Chorley, Blackpool, and South Ribble councils have already signed up to the scheme.

Wyre Council has so far indicated it does not want to take the proposal any further. However, discussions are continuing to find a way forward so that Wyre Council will join the rest of the authorities in seeking public opinion on a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

If agreement is reached a formal consultation would start in January.

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Don't leave it too late to order your Christmas medication

WITH Christmas fast approaching, people with long–term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, lung and heart disease are being reminded not to leave it too late to get their repeat prescriptions but to only order what they need.

Many GP surgeries will be closed over Christmas and New Year so people should think about the medication they will need before the festive period begins.

Dr Ros Bonsor, local GP and board member of NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "There are thousands of people living with a long–term health condition in West Lancashire and we want to make sure that people with these illnesses have a good Christmas and New Year. The last thing we want is for people to run out of their medication but it is also important that they don't over–order to avoid unnecessary waste. We don't want patients to become poorly and have to spend part of their holiday in hospital."

The local NHS CCGs in Southport, Formby and West Lancashire are also reminding people to examine their options and that A&E and 999 services are for life–threatening and serious conditions.

Across the area there are a range of health services to support people if they feel unwell or have any health concerns.

For minor ailments and injuries your best route to recover is likely to be self–care. There are a variety of services that can support you to do this.

• Pharmacy Services. Your local pharmacy can offer free, confidential and expert advice on a range of health issues. They can help you prepare for many of the common illnesses like coughs and colds and ensure you have a well–stocked medicine cabinet over the holiday period.

• NHS. UK. You can find a wealth of trusted advice about hundreds of health conditions and details of GPs, pharmacies and dentists in your local area by visiting the NHS.uk website www.nhs.uk. It also includes a symptom checker.

• NHS 111. When you need medical help or advice fast, but it is not a 999 emergency, you can also call the NHS 111 service. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and calls are free from mobiles and landlines.

If you need medical care for illnesses you cannot treat yourself, then your GP should be your next port of call.

If you don't have a GP, you can register with your local surgery. If you're not sure where this is, you can find out at www.nhs.uk or call 0300 77 77 007.

If your local surgery is closed, you can still see a GP with the GP out–of–hours service. Just call 111 and you can speak to a local GP over the phone or in person if necessary.

NHS Walk–In Centres also provide treatment 365 days a year for illnesses that you can't treat yourself and there's no need to book an appointment.

For more information visit www.examineyouroptions.info.

Santa Specials set to steam in at Light Railway

SANTA Special trains will be steaming into action at the West Lancs Light Railway in Station Road, Hesketh Bank on Saturday and Sunday, December 19 and 20.

Trains will depart for 'Toyland', where children will meet Santa and receive a present, every half–hour from 10.30am to 4.30pm, although an extra service might run if there is sufficient demand. All the trains will be hauled by steam locomotive and there will be two locos 'in steam'.

There will also be free sweets and balloons for children and hot drinks, soup, hot dogs and mince pies will be served in the workshop.

Fares are £7.50 for children, including ride and present, and £4.50 for adults, including ride and mince pie. There's no need to book but online booking, and more information is available via the website at www.westlancs.org.

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SERVICED OFFICES, VIRTUAL OFFICE & CALL ANSWERING

In 2007 Andy and Marie MacGregor purchased the historic mill to accommodate their business, and in doing so renovated each floor of the building to create fully service-managed offices for a range of SMEs. There are now currently 24 independent businesses operating from Martland Mill, with tenants representing a mix of businesses and professions, including Accountants, IFA's, Mortgage Brokers, Solicitors, Stationary Suppliers and Builders. Martland Mill is set in the heart of Burscough and enjoys a great business community within the managed offices.

FULLY INCLUSIVE SERVICED OFFICES

When Martland Mill started as a serviced managed office in 2007 local companies were attracted by the easy start-up and convenience of getting everything you need from one supplier. Internet access, phones, calls, cleaning, call answering, meeting room and rates assessment advice which leads to most companies currently not paying rates because of the Small Business Rates Relief on offer.

Continued Development - Over the past few years the mill has been developed every year with the following improvements made; Wi-Fi throughout the building (2012), full double glazing (2011) latest firewall technology (2014), inclusive calls to landlines and mobiles (2014), 100mg lease line internet access (2010), new phone system with all the latest technology available to each tenant (2013), custom built reception area (2009)

Martland Mill remains the only fully serviced office building in the Burscough and Ormskirk area, giving its tenants more than just office space, more of a local business community with an all inclusive approach to the services required.

THE RECEPTION

Martland Mill reception is headed up by Sue Smith whose skill in putting tenants first and ensuring all their visitors and callers receive exceptional service, this is a cornerstone of the business. It was clear early on that the tenants in the Mill really appreciated a great receptionist, and in Sue they have someone who takes customer care to the next level with an old-fashioned approach that is all about quality, service and honesty.

AS PART OF OUR CONTINUED INVESTMENTS TO MARTLAND MILL 2015

This year we have invested a substantial amount on updates to the building:

- New Carpets
- New LED Lighting installed throughout the building
- New Firewall to enhance our internet security
- Building painted both inside and outside
- We have invested in a fully automated Fob system for the main entrance giving added security to the building and easier access to our tenants
- New gas boilers updated and serviced where required

OUR COMMUNITY

Here at Martland Mill we pride ourselves in hosting a Community of Businesses that enjoy the facilities we offer. Some of our tenants now do business with each other.

Please see below some testimonials from some of our tenants:

Jon Lawrence JDL Flooring quoted

'When you move into Martland Mill you get more than just an office.'

Keith Hawick MD of Tandem Contracts

'Martland Mill' Andy, Sue & all the team offer an excellent and professionally run serviced office environment.

I would not hesitate to recommend them to anyone looking to rent office space.

The cost to rent an office is very reasonable with first class facilities and services.'

Jason A Holden Holden Accountants

'For over four years I have been a tenant in a fully serviced office which includes a fully manned reception. The level of professionalism I have received and witnessed from both reception and other staff within the Mill has helped portray my company in a positive light to clients and potential clients when I have been unavailable. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending the services I have received as a tenant.'

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'Martland Mill and Sue are the saviour of the small business. Creating a fantastic flexible good value enterprise for start up and established businesses .'

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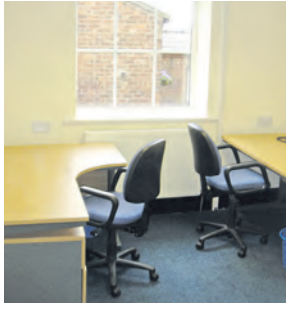

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Trust 'working as quickly as possible' to resolve hospital suspensions issue

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital Trust chiefs say they are working as 'quickly as possible' to resolve the issue of four suspended health bosses – despite ongoing pressure to sort the situation out.

The Champion understands that significant funding has been set aside to pay for the investigation into three separate whistleblowing allegations which resulted in chief executive Jonathan Parry being suspended in August, along with chief operating officer Sheilah Finnegan, human resources director Sharon Partington and deputy director of performance Richard McCarthy.

However, despite it now being four months since the suspensions, the trust remain tight–lipped with staff and the public being kept in the dark over the investigation and its outcome. Meanwhile the trust is continuing to pay the suspended staff while also paying for replacement staff.

Southport MP, John Pugh has written to Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust chair, Sue Musson to ask for reassurances about the ongoing enquiry.

Sue Musson, told the Champion: "The trust excluded four senior members of staff in August following three separate whistleblowing complaints and has commissioned an independent investigation by an external organisation under the trust's disciplinary policy. This is a complex matter, and due process must be followed. We are proceeding to do that as quickly as circumstances allow, in order to resolve the matter.

"Patients and residents can be assured that we have an experienced executive team in place at the trust whose number one priority is the delivery of safe healthcare services to local people."

MP backs abattoir CCTV campaign

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is backing a call by animal rights group Animal Aid to introduce compulsory CCTV in all British slaughterhouses after fly–on–the–wall cameras inside 10 slaughterhouses revealed nine breaking animal welfare laws.

The shocking footage showed workers kicking, punching and beating animals, burning them with cigarettes, using electrical stunning tongs to inflict painful electric shocks and hacking away at the throats of fully conscious sheep.

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR 2015

Over the Christmas and New Year periods your collection dates have changed from those printed on the leaflet sent out last year, please see details below.

WEEK COMMENCING 21st December 2015	
USUAL COLLECTION DAY:	REVISED COLLECTION DAY:
Tuesday 22nd December	Monday 21st December
Wednesday 23rd December	Tuesday 22nd December
Thursday 24th December	Wednesday 23rd December
Friday 25th December	Thursday 24th December

NO COLLECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE Friday 25th December and there will be no green bin collections for the week above

WEEK COMMENCING 28th December 2015	
USUAL COLLECTION DAY:	REVISED COLLECTION DAY:
Tuesday 29th December	Monday 28th December
Wednesday 30th December	Tuesday 29th December
Thursday 31st December	Wednesday 30th December
Friday 1st January 2016	Thursday 31st December

NO COLLECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE Friday 1st January and there will be no green bin collections for the week above

Normal collections will resume 5th January 2016

Check collection dates and find information about refuse and recycling at www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse

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I DON'T believe it!

Actually, according to a report by the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, I probably don't believe in almost anything.

Except, naturally, in tolerating the beliefs of just about anybody else.

This 'commission' was chaired by the Rt Baroness Butler–Sloss OBE and the Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth – better known as Rowan Williams former Archbishop of Canterbury – and Sir Iqbal Sacranie, former secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, are patrons.

Dig into their report and, if you can understand the politically very correct wording, the lasting impression is basically that because fewer people these days regularly attend Christian churches then, in the words of the report, we need "a new settlement for religion in Great Britain."

Now this could almost be at least worthy of debate – except that you do not have to be a regular churchgoer to try to live by Christian principles.

And though we are, quite rightly, becoming an inclusive and multi–faith country, this should not mean that Great Britain should be anything other than Christian, which tolerates folk with different beliefs – so long as they do not contravene the laws of the land.

Both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church, are rather miffed by this report. Trouble is, they are both saddled with a leadership keen on hand–wringing but short on any kind of action.

An Islamic state would certainly not allow the idea that because folk on other faiths live and work in their lands, that should mean their views should somehow be modified to fit in with them.

That is not supposed to be a criticism of them – they are quite right. It is a criticism of those who seek to change the very fabric of our country in order not to upset anyone who might not agree with our customs and practices.

I don't claim to be an expert on any of this, but closer to my sphere of knowledge are the faith schools which, according to this 'report', should be phased out, Christian assemblies of daily worship consigned to the history books and their ability to select pupils scrapped.

Sounds absolutely daft to me.

Because all this is based on the presumption that such schools are divisive.

In fact, though, they seem to produce every bit as well balanced adults as state schools, while preserving the religious inclinations of their parents.

The point is, no matter how many people actually attend church each week, this is a Christian country with values and customs of which we need to make no apologies – we should be proud of them.

And most certainly we should not be browbeaten into becoming a sort of melting pot with a mishmash of ideas and apparently little tolerance of anyone who dares to voice disagreement.

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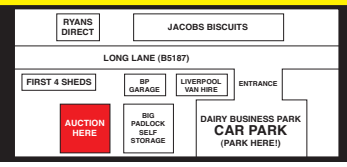

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‘Have fun but stay safe’ message to festive revellers

By **Danielle Thompson**

HAVE fun but don’t overdo it.

That’s the message to would–be revellers in the borough in the run–up to the festive party season.

Officials of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership are advising drinkers to think carefully about how much they consume before they go out and to make sure their night lasts.

Chairman, Dave Tilleray, said: “When people have too much to drink they are more likely to lose their friends and possessions, get involved in fights, end up in casualty, or accidentally cause a fire in their home.

“This can create a real headache for those who are left to pick up the pieces – such as the police, medical staff, the fire service or even their friends and family.”

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council’s portfolio holder for community safety, commented: “We really want everyone to have a good time at Christmas but people must be aware that excessive drinking can spoil a great night and have serious and even heartbreaking consequences.

“Our message is about encouraging people not to spoil their nights out by overdoing things before they even make it to the pub or club. Not only could you end up ill, but it makes you more vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime or involved in an accident which could ruin your festive season.”

The trend of drinking at home first often leads to revellers becoming very drunk earlier in the night and increased levels of crime and other risky behaviour.

And West Lancashire police inspector June Chessell added: “We want everyone to enjoy themselves this Christmas. But the harm that alcohol can do in our communities should not be underestimated. Excessive drinking increases your likelihood of committing a crime or becoming a victim of crime.

“We work with other agencies, including licensed premises themselves, to try to keep West Lancashire’s residents and visitors safe.”

200–plus attend village switch–on

MORE than 200 visitors flocked to Parbold’s eighth annual Christmas Tree Lights Switch–On.

The ceremony was marked with pupils from Parbold Academy and Our Lady All Saints primary schools singing carols around the tree on The Green outside the village hall, accompanied by the Hesketh Bank Silver Band.

That was followed by mince pies, chocolates and juice in the hall afterwards, with mulled wine for the adults.

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Christmas Quiz Answers

Christmas Food & Drink

What name is given to *sausages wrapped in bacon*? . **Pigs in Blankets**
Which country is the fruitcake *Stollen* from? ..... **Germany**
Which spirit is added to butter and traditionally served with Christmas pudding? ..... **Brandy**
Which traditional Christmas treat is also in Cockney Rhyming Slang? ..... **Mince Pies**
What is the main ingredient in the drink *Snowball*?..... **Advocaat**

Christmas Number Ones

Who had last years Christmas number 1? ..... **Ben Haenow**
What were the three years that *Band Aid* were number 1? **1984, 1989, 2004**
What song did *Winifred's School Choir* have a number 1 with in 1980? ..... **There's No One Quite Like Grandma**
Who sang the classic 1973 number 1 *Merry Xmas Everybody*?.. **Slade**
Where did Jimmy Osmond's *long haired lover* come from in 1972? ..... **Liverpool**

Christmas Films

What character did Macaulay Culkin play in *Home Alone*? ..... **Kevin McAllister**
On what street was there a miracle? **34th**
The angel *Clarence* is from what 1946 Classic film? **A Wonderful Life**
Who wrote *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*? ..... **Dr Seuss**
In the film *Die Hard* who played John McClane? ..... **Bruce Willis**

Christmas Toys

What year was *Barbie* born? **1959**
Last year *Elsa* was one of the most sought after toys but what film is she from? ..... **Frozen**
It started in Denmark in 1949 and is still as popular today, what is it? ..... **Lego**
Who do you associate *Super Mario* with? ..... **Luigi**
Who made the iconic *Chopper* bike? ..... **Raleigh**

Pantomime

What pantomime is the Line '*FE FI FO FUM, I smell the blood of an Englishman*' from? ..... **Jack and the Beanstalk**
Who's brother is *Wishy Washy*? ..... **Aladdin**
In which pantomime does *Buttons* appear? ..... **Cinderella**
Who is *Princess Marcella* better known as? ..... **Sleeping Beauty**
Name the seven dwarfs in *Snow White*? ..... **Doc, Grumpy, Sleepy, Bashful, Happy, Sneezy, Dopey**

The Nativity

What town was Jesus born in? ..... **Bethlehem**
Which angel visited Mary? ..... **Gabriel**
Where did baby Jesus lay? ..... **In a manger**
Who were the first people to visit Jesus? ..... **Shepherds**
What gifts did the three wise men bring? .. **Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh**

Christmas General Knowledge

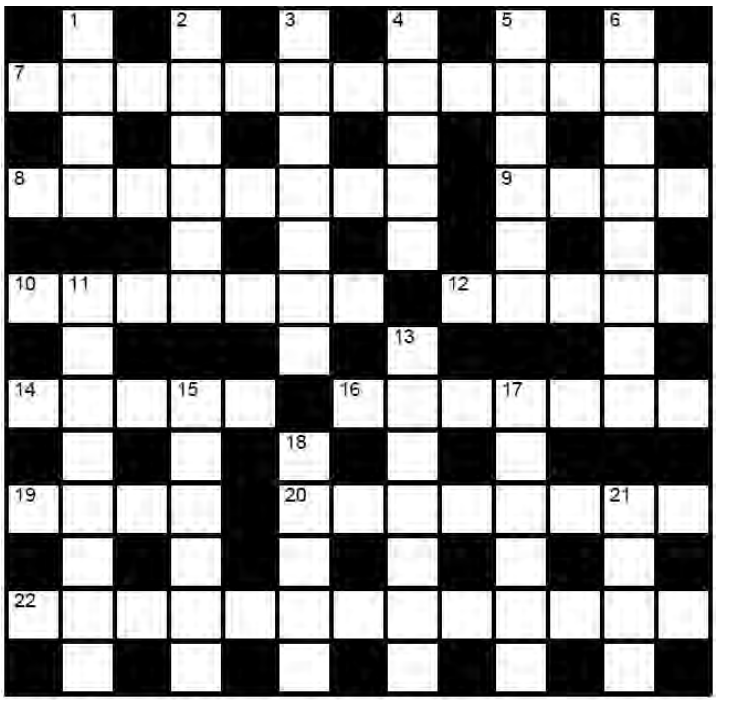
Who was the first monarch to give a televised Christmas speech? ..... **Elizabeth II**
Who invented the Christmas cracker? ..... **Thomas Smith**
Which drinks firm are reputed to have dressed Father Christmas in red and white? ..... **Coca-Cola**
Who wrote the book *A Christmas Carol*? ..... **Charles Dickens**
Good King Wenceslas looked out to what? ..... **The Feast of Stephen**
What was number five in the *12 Days of Christmas*? ..... **Gold Rings**
Who traditionally gives Trafalgar Square the Christmas Tree? . **Norway**
What colour are the berries of mistletoe? ..... **White**
Which TV advert is based on the *Man on the Moon*?..... **John Lewis**
Name the original eight reindeer from '*Twas The Night Before Christmas*? ..... **Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LUCKY WINNER
V. SHEARD
The winner has been notified

1146586

Champion CROSSWORD

Week 51



Last week's solutions:
Across: 7 Fennel. 8 Leeway. 9 Crux. 10 Entangle. 11 Chianti. 13 Afoot. 15 Crisp. 16 Snorkel. 18 Encipher. 19 Hart. 21 Muslin. 22 Linage.
Down: 1 Beer. 2 Inexhaustible. 3 Alberta. 4 Elate. 5 Penny-farthing. 6 Calliope. 12 Harangue. 14 Angrily. 17 Chink. 20 Rage.

ACROSS

7 Agenda (5,2,3,3)
8 Read superficially (4,4)
9 Cheerio! (2-2)
10 Aperture (7)
12 Greeting word (5)
14 Very lightweight wood used for making models (5)
16 Souvenir (7)
19 Muslim ruler (4)
20 Unfasten a belt or shoe (8)
22 Public announcement promoting a product or service (13)

DOWN

1 Long arduous journey especially on foot (4)
2 Person employed to do simple tasks like running errands (6)
3 Financially sound (7)
4 Reversal of policy (1-4)
5 Sofa (6)
6 Short cape or cloak usually worn by women (8)
11 A collection of psalms (8)
13 Loquacious (7)
15 Dessert made from flavoured ice water (6)
17 Pitch tents (6)
18 Plain clothes worn by someone who usually wears a uniform (5)
21 Breathing organ (4)

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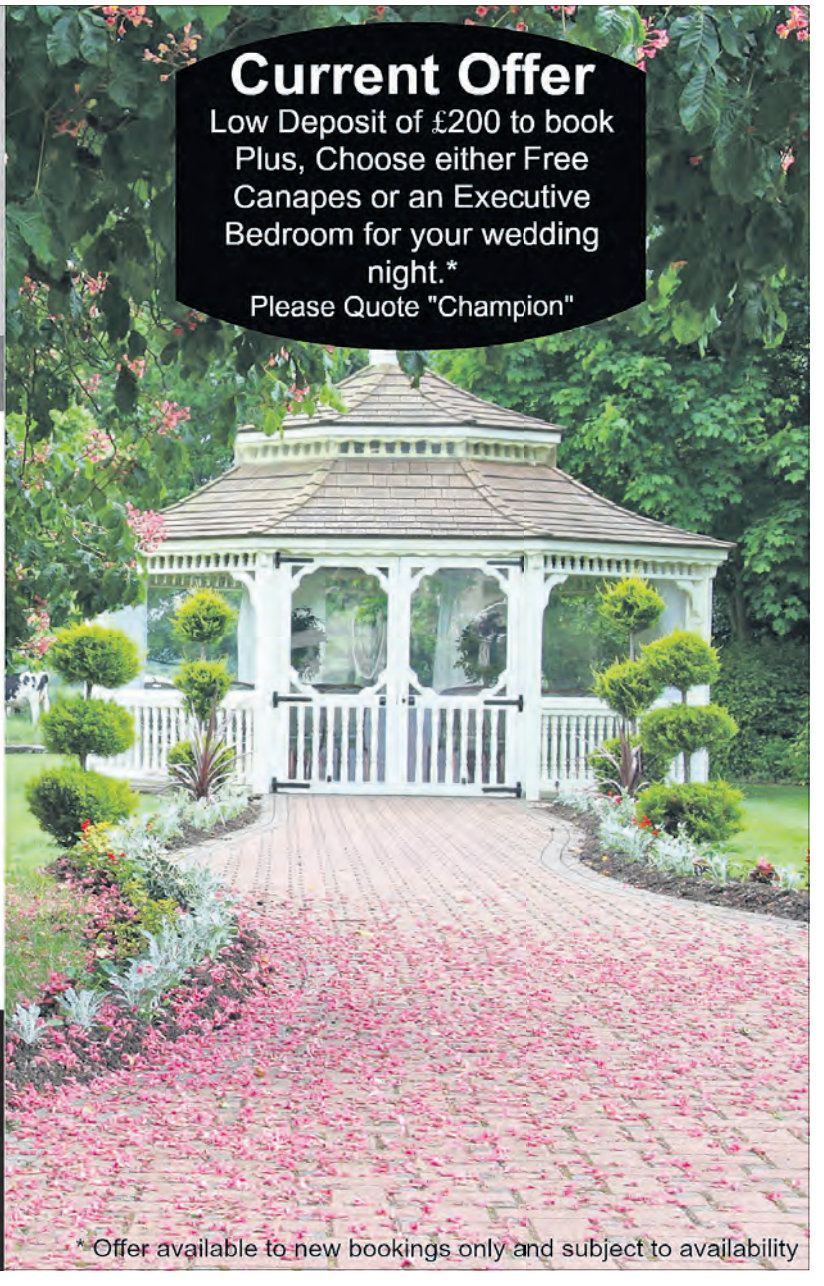
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Ormskirk Occasional Singers Code NA

Occasional Singers to perform Christmas Concert

THE ever popular Ormskirk Occasional Singers will be performing their annual Christmas Concert at St Michael and All Angels Church, Dalton (WN8 7SD), this Friday (December 18).

Everyone is welcome to attend, tickets can be purchased on the door. All proceeds from this event, and the raffle, will go towards the upkeep of the little, country church.

The choir will be singing a lively selection of traditional carols and Christmas songs – audience participation is always encouraged and appreciated!

OOS are always looking for new members, call (01257) 463461.

Theatre group puts on another original production

Review by **Jenny Robson**

• Bob Cratchitt – retired
• Aughton and Ormskirk U3A Musical Theatre Group
• Ormskirk Civic Hall

KNOWN for pulling out all the stops to create original productions this society's latest effort is no exception.

With the script and lyrics written by Eric Midwinter and music by the society's own Tony Crimlisk it is an upbeat story of Bob Cratchitt as he approaches retirement age.

A giant Christmas cracker opens the show through which is seen the interior of Scrooge's and Marley's shop (where nothing is ever knowingly undersold) with the Company looking festive in a flurry of red costumes with white faux (I hope!) fur.

It is Bob's 65th birthday and, after 50 years of working in the store, the staff are holding a party to send him on his way clutching a gold clock.

Jane Morley (Dorothy Prothero) has been married to Jacob Marley and is now holding a torch for Ebenezer (Tony Adamson).

David Davies takes the eponymous role with Maureen Morris as his wife, Martha.

'Tiny Tim' (Colin Ratcliffe) has grown up and is cured of his Dickensian impediment. He's now a wealthy banker who lives in a 27–roomed mansion. Playing his snobby wife, Theresa, is Gill O'Flaherty who takes the comic role very well.

The three inevitable ghosts (who 'like to sing in chorus') – Ghosts of Retirement Past (Bill Edwards), Present (Teresa Edwards) and Yet to Come (Sue Hardiker) arrive to convey the message that retirement does not have to be boring when the fabulous University of the Third Age is prominent.

The good pace of the show owes thanks to John Hardiker's expert direction and Gaynor Hale's clever choreography together with the vivacity of the cast, seasonal costumes and stunning scenery. Congratulations to the team! 8/10.

SDC's pantomime opening tonight

TONIGHT (Wednesday, December 16) sees the opening night of this year's Southport Dramatic Club pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, which will run at the Little Theatre on Hoghton Street until January 3.

After months of planning, rehearsing and staging, the 25–strong cast is ready to perform this festive extravaganza across its run of 18 performances.

Written by Norman Robbins, the story has all the essential ingredients from the well–known fairytale. On her 16th birthday, Princess Aurora (the 'beauty' of the title) is tricked by the evil Carabosse to prick her finger on a spinning wheel. Fortunately, unknown to Carabosse, her spell is intercepted by the Good Fairy Azuriel, who ensures she does not die but is put to sleep for 100 years, awaiting a kiss from a dashing Prince.

This being pantomime of course, there are plenty of twists and surprises along the way, as well as the usual slapstick, and magic, song and dance. Audiences are encouraged to cheer on Aurora and her friends, including her nurse Dame Ammonia Goodbody, and Tickles the Jester, whilst booing the evil witch. The louder the better!!

The production team is a highly–experienced band of SDC members, all of whom are working hard to bring the panto to the stage. Call 01704 530521.

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Due to the Christmas and Boxing Day Bank Holidays, the booking deadline for Private Advertisements is as follows:
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Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas
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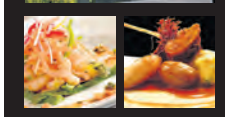

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Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas

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BUTANE GAS 15KG full bottle. £25 01942 255001

BUTTERFLY TABLE folding oval table and 4 slatted folding chairs that store inside.2 drawers. phone after 6pm £60.00 01695 312854

CANE FURNITURE settee + 2 chairs, coffee table, good cond £60 07443 489684

CANE THREE SEATER with six beige cushions nice for home or conservatory even great for party guests. Bargain. £35 0151 2849148

CHRISTMAS TREE in good condition with stand 1.8m tall £25 o.n.o. 01704578723

COMPOSITE DOOR Composite door in blue with white interior, less than 2 years old, immaculate. Size inc frame 91cm x 213cm £80 o.n.o. 01704895016

CURTAINS ONE PAIR Fully lined, 94' wide 66' drop. Pale lemon. £6.00 0151 924 6393

DINING CHAIRS Two Mackintosh teak dining chairs (chair number 9073) with upholstered padded seats. £15 for pair 01695421338

DINING ROOM CHAIRS light golden brown with sea green velvet seats newly covered. Chairs sold separately if needed. £10 each £10 0151 4744261

DISPLAY CABINET Rosewood display/sideboard, glass shelves, 3 cupboards, illuminated, vg condition, hight 7ft x 47ins wide x 18ins, buyer collects £90 o.n.o. 01704533218

DOUBLE BED double bed vgc light oak in colour £40 01695575589

DOUBLE BED DOUBLE bed with drawer mattress included hardly used £90.00 o. N. O. £90.00 o.n.o. 01704 538825

DOUBLE BED HEAD Red velvet £25. Brass onyx lamp £17. Very attractive headboard. Selling due to bereavement £25 07594004523

DOUBLE FUTON Double metal futon for sale due to house move. Down sized and therefore futon no longer fits. Can be use as a sofa or just a double bed. Comes with mattress. Good condition. £60 07792692786

DREAMS 4'6 MATRESS as new, firm. £60 01704 567776

DRESSING TABLE MIRROR Beautiful antique style three way mirror. £20 01704566104

DYSON CLEANER upright with tools, dyson dc14, very strong suction from smoke free and pet free home. Colour silver and lavender. May deliver. £60 01704 560150

DYSON VACUUM CLEANER model upright bag–less, nice condition £45 07906610215

EDWARDIAN FRONT DOOR very attractive stained glass upper panel complete with letter box, excellent condition bargain. £50 01704 536838

ELECTRIC GUITAR ELEVATION excellent condition with amp £35 01744 632889

ERCOL PLATE RACK in golden dawn perfect condition two shelves £50 0151 2220362

FENDER FIREPLACE BLACK and brushed steel. Inside measurements 55.5 inches by 16.5 inches £50 01942 255001

FIRE SCREEN Brass fire screen with embossed sailing ship on front all so 2 brass toasting forks and 1 brass handled steel porker. £25 01695 574863

FIRE SURROUND dark brown wood ideal for gas or electric fire. Ring John £20 01704 870589

HOUSE AND HOME

FIRE SURROUND. White traditional fire surround. Fibreglass mounded. 5 foot wide by 3ft 3' high. Buyer collects from Birkdale. Good clean condition. £20.00 07818407608

FREEZER hoover freezer fits under worktop 4 pull out draws 6months old can deliver local £50 01704 571671

G PLAN TABLE in teak, complete with 6 upholstered dining chairs. Table extends to accommodate up to 6 diners. Very nice condition. £75.00 01704 808185

GAS FIRE robinson willey sahara, free standing, wall mounted, brand new, boxed, can deliver locally £320 o.n.o. 07939 220539

GLASS TV STAND three shelves crome legs £20 07849969950

GOLF CLUBS. Sizes – 3, 4 and 6 irons. Also 11 Wood. All hardly used and as new. £4 each o.n.o. 01704871387

HOSE garden hose £10 07849969950

HOUSE AND HOME

INSTYLER ROTATING IRON straightens, curls adds volume and shine, 2 heat settings, will not burn your hair £60rrp, £20 01704 560464

INTERNAL DOOR brand new £20 07849969950

JOHN LEWIS oval gold ornate mirror perfect condition £30 01515317785

KIRBY VACUUM In excellent condition together with all tools has been serviced every year bargain £350 o.n.o. 01704578723

KIRBY VACUUM CLEANER complete with tools. Factory serviced excellent condition G6 model in black (bargain) £375 01704 879742

KITCHEN TABLE 40'x26', good condition £10 01695423894

LCD WIDESCREEN MONITOR Acer X223WS 22'Immaculate as newFree VGA cable £45.00 o.n.o. 07586 294379

HOUSE AND HOME

MAHOGANY GATE gate leg table £50 01704 530672

MATRESS TOPPER unused 100 feather pocketed topper, from dunhelms for £110 selling for £50 01704 576546

MEMORY FOAM TOPPER Double size 3' deep. Tried once Immaculate condition £35.00 o.n.o. 07586294379

MIRROR Oblong and bevel edged, approximately four 63' high by one 17' wide, in nice gilt wooden frame, lovely condition, can be hung horizontally or vertically. £35.00 07530562650

MORPHY RICHARDS FRIDGE about 10 years old in good working order. £10 07544 036210

OAK CABINET Modern style 2 drawers and 2 cupboards 31ins wide by 32ins high 13.5ins deep.Excellent condition. £40.00 07859040558

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HOUSE AND HOME

NEW SINGLE DAYBED Gorgeous Julian Bowen Versailles single daybed & mattress. New, still boxed, mattress still sealed in plastic. Metal frame is cream coloured. Selling online for upwards of £240. Collection only. £175 o.n.o. 07909902602

OAK DINING TABLE Seats 6–8 plus extendible panel, Contemporary style 63inc x 34inc plus panel, Matches sideboard. excellent condition. £90.00 07859040558

OAK SIDEBOARD 4 drawers and 2 cupboards, contemporary style, 74ins wide 18ins depth by 37ins high.Excellent condition, matches Oak Table. £100.00 07859040558

OFFICE DESK & CHAIR Light oak finish 6 Feet Long x 2 Feet Eight Inches Wide 3 Draws Either Side, including Black Office Chair. Buyer to Collect £70.00 07795 332604

OIL RADIATOR Oil radiator 1500W 2 Heat settings.Perfect working order. £15.00 01515200856

OVAL GATE LEG table, mahogany stain plus two chairs. £40 0151 9287080

PANDORA BRACELET 19cm with two charms, plus box RRP £125. Comes with box would make nice present. £65 0151 2849148

PASTING TABLE wooden fold away £15 07849969950

PHILLIPS HOSTESS TROLLEY in very good condition. £40 01704 821154

PINE KITCHEN SET Small pine table 3ft long x 2ft wide x 3ft high plus 4 matching stools in beautiful condition. £35 01695 725683

POND PUMP pond pump with loads of accessories bran new still in box pumps 2000L per £40 01695575589

POWERFUL DYSON DC14 good clean condition with tools, will deliver £55 Southport 214498

PRINCES BED bright pink metal frame with hearts at head and foot of the bed £40 07849969950

RANGE OVEN Brand new bush range oven. Full guarantee. £595 online or instore. One off brand new £400 £400 4 doors 8 hobs

REGENCY DINING TABLE with extension, four chairs plus 2 carvers. Also table protector one side washable other side felt £120 0151 2220362

ROTARY AIR DRYER Brabantia 60M Smart 'Lift–O–Matic'–system. With cover. No spike. £75 01515466207

RUG JOHN LEWIS 'Perth' 140x80cms in fennel(green) bought 6 weeks ago for £50.. as brand new . £30 07966101288

SAMSUNG 40' in crome and black £90 07849969950

SOFA BED Cream cover & patterned one, sprung base,4ft. Must been seen as very good condition. £50.00 07859040558

SOFA BED Two seater sofa bed, green very good cond £75 o.n.o. 07928284433

SOFA CREAMY WHITE nice condition 4 seater, very comfortable, soft leather. £125 01704 893589

STOKERS oval mahogany hall/lamp table perfect condition £30 01515317785

STRESSLESS LEATHER SOFAS in cream, 3 seater and 2 seater, ex con, must be seen, cost £3,500 new, must go £500 01704 872290

TABLE AND CHAIRS Wooden folding dining table with 4 chairs which slide into center of table for storage. On wheels so can be moved around. Needs varnishing but everything else working well £40 07792692786

TEAK DRESSING TABLE with matching 3 drawer bedside cabinets £40 01704 575414

TEN FLOOR TILES large porcelain, 600mmx600mm, neo quartzite, white laparto £75 o.n.o. 01695423894

THREE PIECE SUITE Leather, dark red, three seater & matching chairs, wood trimmed, vg condition, buyer collects. £100 o.n.o. 01704533218

TONY SHEATH mahogany and gold framed print a summers past perfect unmarked condition £35 01515317785

TV STAND black, glass and chrome, TV corner stand, 3 shelves cost £60 accept £25 01772 933967

WARDROBE, 3 DOOR New Hallingford With mirror, beech effect. Still on Argos website. Good condition, will need to be rebuilt, instructions available. Bargain at this price. £40 01704 509066

WARDROBE, 3 DOOR New hallingford range, with mirror beech effect. Still on Argos website. Good condition, will need to be rebuilt, instructions available. Bargain. £50 01704 509066

WHITE B SHAPED BATH LH 1695 long x 750mm wide including taps, side panel & curved glazed shower screen with inset hand rail excellent condition Buyer to Collect £100.00 o.n.o. 07795 332604

XMAS TREE X2 both nearly new fibre optic xmas tree 6ft £15 2.5ft £4 both green with fibre colours £15 0151 4744261

GARDENING

4 FENCE PANELS CLOSE board type – vertically aligned boards – 6ft x 6ft – never fitted – excellent condition – pickup skelmersdale £80 07752493185

BIRDTABLE New Bird Table Well Made Solid Wood With Side Table Make Nice Xmas Present £25 01704227588

BOSCH GARDEN SAW KED electric cordless garden saw £35 07894 044429

DOVECOTE Dovecote For Three Doves Painted Black And White £65 01704227588

FLYMO GARDEN VAC. Electric with long lead. Blows and vacuums. Large collection bag. Ideal for leaf collectin. Orange colour. Model EV650. Good condition. Seen working. £15 01704 553972

FOUR FENCE PANELS CLOSE board type – vertically aligned boards – 6ft x 6ft – never fitted – excellent condition – pickup skelmersdale £80 07752493185

LEAF BLOWER Black & Decker leaf blower vacuum never been used. £35 07930 154874

GARDENING

PETROL POWERED MOWER Hayter Spirit 41 Super condition. £200 01695 724314

ROCKS LIMESTONE PIECES size 1 CWT nice shapes. £20 01704 893589

HOBBIES

16 ASSORTED GOLFCLUBS adult size, in good condition with black golf bag. £20 Southport 214498

6 GROVER TUNERS 18–1 Rotomatic high quality tuning machine heads suitable for 3+3 Gibson, PSR etc guitar headstock, brand new and un–used £45 01704831977

ACOUSTIC GUITAR 3/4 Valencia 3/4 size quality acoustic guitar Very good condition £20.00 07709181984

ACOUSTIC GUITAR KIT Includes: hardly used acoustic guitar made by Fender, electronic tuner, stand, strap, spare, strings, and getting started DVD. £50 01704 892701

ANTLER SUITCASE 2.7KG 77 litre (large size) 2 wheel, extend handle. green colour with tan edging. Never used. Retirement gift. £75 01695420994

BALSA DOUGLAS DC3 willows, made, cost £70, would look nice hanging from ceiling in boys room, 3ft span £50 07784 063827

BOSS CHROMATIC TUNER Brand New Tu–70 chromatic guitar and bass tuner, un–used and boxed. Great Xmas present £35 01704831977

CANON 514XL COMPACT video camera, collectible, vgc £30 07784 063827

CARAVAN AQUA ROLL fresh water carrier, new, 40ltr with handle. £35 01704 214498

DJ RECORD COLLECTION 7' VINYLS, Mostly Catalogued, in wooden cases, very heavy, Ideal for functions or parties, will not split. £500 07980 162415

DR AXELROD'S MINI ATLAS of Freshwater Aquairum fishes, revised third edition, 992 pages, colour pictures, as new condition, cost nearly £25, accept £10 01704 212816

FLUVAL SPEC AQUARIUM 20inch long x 7inch wide x 12inch high, 19 litre, with molded cover, LED light unit with blue night light, built–in pump and filter, carbon insert and Biomax, with heater and thermostat and some extras, cost £75, accept £40 01704 212816

GIBSON 490T PICKUP Retail boxed genuine 490T double black pickup. Genuine USA and used briefly, full length armoured cable, excellent condition. Fab Humbucker Sound! £85 01704831977

LIEDO VEHICLES COLLECTION about sixty in total various types. £20 01704 564535

LLEDO DAYS GONE 41 Models, brand new, nice Christmas present. All different. Cheap price. £60 0151 5268367

MICRO SCALEXTRIC PRO–RALLY complete with mat, cars, ready to play in minutes £35 07784 063827

NIKON VIDEO CAMERA super zoom 8, vgc, manual and original box £20 07784 063827

QUALITY GUITAR STRAP Red or black leather, studded, high quality item, with genuine Schaller strap locks, never drop your guitar again! £35 01704831977

SPUR PRACTICE GUITAR has built in speaker, takes 9v battery, has amp plugs, vgc £40 07784 063827

HOBBIES

VIDEO CAMERA Hitachi VMC358E 8mm DS PIII X300 digital zoom, ex cond, manuals, charger, cables, 2 tapes £40 07784 063827

YAMAHA ELECTRIC ORGAN EL40 as new, had little private use, fantastic sound complete with stool and music. £300 01257 450046

YAMAHA KEYBOARD PSR–26A with bass boost system. Includes adaptor 92cm L 35cm W. ONO. £30 07870 288020

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SONY PLAYSTATION 3 PS3 in very good condition and comes fully boxed Capacity: 80GB Comes with 1 controller and 3 Call of Duty – games £95 07749918895

SAMSUNG soundbar £45 o.n.o. 0151 5319927

50 PS1 GAMES 56 PS2 games £50p each 01695 550506

CHEST OF DRAWERS 8 drawers in all hard wood, good condition. £60 01704 222738

DOOR WREATH Lovely decorated door wreath 22" wide, good quality, red fibre optics, all working but requires minor attention. Bargain. £18.00 07530562650

FLAT SCREEN CABLE New Vogel's cable column hides 10 cables between tv/floor. Supports for Sky box. RRP £60. £35 01515466207

FREE Approx. 150 Video Tapes Childrens and Adult films FREE to collector. £FREE 01704 895452

LARGE LED/LCD TV 46 inch Loewe TV, loaded with software and 750gb hd. reads laptop pics/docs via wi–fi. DAB radio. Cost £4,000. Bargain for £1500 01515466207

PANASONIC 37" TV 5* reviewed Panasonic 37" Plasma TV TH–37PX80BA, fantastic picture quality, excellent condition, original remote, instructions and packaging. Free local delivery. £95 0170454433195

PANASONIC 50" TV TX–50AS600B 50" LED Smart TV as new with 5 year guarantee. Boxed with all accessories. Cost £550. Free delivery. £425 0170454433195

PANASONIC VIERA TV. 26' flatscreen with built in freeview.with remote control. £30 07809 255966

PIANO. Upright. On castors. Full keyboard and pedals. Dark wood. Nice design. Good condition, but needs tuning. Ideal for beginner or club. £50 o.n.o. 01704 553972

PROFESSIONAL KAROKE SYSTEM model CDG home or Pro work digital key contrast 2 mike inputs, approx 200 discs one mike plus portable T. V £150 01695 724314

SONY CMT–CP101 Compact HiFi component system, no speakers hence price, remote, ideal for kid's room, full working order and as new condition £35 01704831977

TOSHIBA DVD PLAYER dvd player, excellent condition with remote. £7 01695 576872

TV CABLE TIDY New vogel's column.£54 retail. Hides 10 cables, support for Sky box, dvd. Black with silver edges. 64x28cm. £35 01515466207

TV PORTABLE SONY Black Trinitron colour CRT portable TV. 14 inch screen, with remote control. Requires set top box to work. Can be used as games monitor etc. Good condition. May deliver. £10 01704 560150

YAMAHA KEYBOARD Brand new ez220 digital keyboard. Used once in black. £50 01695423769

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YAMAHA ORGAN & STAND Model No. PSRE213. Beautiful condition £25 01704 576087

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AB–KING–PRO FITNESS EQUIPMENT Fully adjustable, multi functional fitness, exercise machine. Cushioned seat, handle bars and back support. Folds away flat. Very sturdy. As new. £55.00 o.n.o. 07541156012

CD/DVD CABINET Smoked glass 2 door.20 inch wide by 51 inch high £25 01685 420950 aughton

FITNESS ROWING MACHINE. WEIDER AEROW BIO PLUS rowing machine. Hardly used. In good working order. £40 o.n.o. 01704 500410

GOLF CLUBS full set with box of new balls and carry shoulder bag £65 07930 154874

GOLF TROLLEY Sun Mountain four wheels folds flat also has bag attached for waterproofs etc in excellent condition hardly used bargain £70 o.n.o. 01704578723

HIPPO DRIVER AND 3 WOOD head covers £10 for both £10 01515319425 or 07773242918

POOL /SNOOKER TABLE Hardly used fold up58 inch by 32 inchWith accesories £25 01685 420950 aughton

PRADA GOLF BAG beige in colour, lightweight Prada golf bag, model number 4V0296Y97 bargain £50 01515319425 or 07773242918

PRO POWER MULTIGYM 3 Station Pro Power Multigym. Barely used in excellent condition. With instructions. £175 o.n.o. 07739319951

SLAZENGER GOLF BAG lightweight with stand, blue & black in colour, double strape only been used a few times £20 01515319425 or 07773242918

SNOWBOARD BOOTS Burton Moto size 9 black ex cond. £40 01704 570399

SNOWBOARD BURTON CLASH 155cm with bindings ex cond ideal first board. £120 01704 570399

WATERPROOF GOLF PANTS XL, dunlop £20 07784 063827

TOYS AND GAMES

DOLLS HOUSE excellent condition some furniture.130 x 88 x 35cm. New £150! £70.00 Can Deliver 07973 784689

AIR HOCKEY POOL TABLE. All complete, flips over, very sturdy, good condition, pool cues minor dints, 28' x 72' approx. Ideal xmas present £45 07919 444152

BABY OLEG MEERKAT baby oleg meerkat, with grub toy, new, boxed with adoption certificate.from compare the market. £20 07809 255966

BOXED TOYS vtech fisher price all new unwanted gifts £5 07849969950

BUILD A BEAR Wardrobe pink and purple good condition £15.00 o.n.o. 01704539039

BUILD–A–BEAR bundle. Includes basic bear, dress with shoes, dressing gown and pyjamas, jeans and 2 tops and pair of shoes, ideal Xmas present, great condition, only £15 01695 227127

CHILDS ROCKING HORSE Sturdy and attractive rocking horse in perfect condition Height to head 78cm – height to saddle 60 cm – length 102 cm – width 30 cm. Mainly chocolate brown with cream rope mane and tail, faux leather saddle, bridle and reigns with metal stirrups and padded wooden frame. Ideal Christmas present. Can deliver locally, otherwise buyer collects please. £20.00 o.n.o. 0151 286 0268

DOLLS HOUSE 3 storey dolls house furniture included lights up via transformer seven rooms plus shop on ground floor fully decorated excellent condition £200 o.n.o. 01519363979

TOYS AND GAMES

DOLLS PUSCHAIR Mamas and papas adjustable handles rain cover, navy cream spot with elc baby Amelia doll hardly been used £20.00 o.n.o. 01704539039

ELC CUPCAKE DOLL Carrier seat and doll ex condition £12.00 o.n.o. 01704539039

PLAY DOME TENT multicoloured brand new £10 07849969950

POOL TABLE by riley, with cues and balls. £28 01704 566063

ROCKING HORSE new, traditional carved medium size horse. Mounted on safety stand. Manes and tail real horsehair brass and leather accessories. £400 07527 699983

ROCKING HORSE WOODEN handmade all wooden chunky build not flat strong 2yrs and up £25 o.n.o. 01519247994

WANTED FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA programmes, ticket stubs, metal pin badges, paninis players match worn shirts etc cash paid £££ 01515319425 or 07773242918

MISC

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CHILDS FEBER ELECTRIC CAR 4 wheels. Suitable for 3–4yr old. Good Condition £30 o.n.o. 01704 891400

ANTIQUE PAN MUGS Two, brown & cream. ex cond. Bargain £45 07866 626967

AUSTIN WORKSHOP MANUAL Austin A30/A35 car and van workshop manual plus wall lubrication chart excellent condition Maghull area £30 0151 476 0521

BLACK SOVEREIGN SUITCASES X 2 two wheeled 34x22 ins med 30x20 ins large case needs slight attention good condition £15.00 o.n.o. 01704539039

CASH REGISTER Cash register used but good condition some till rolls £80 07500 206501

CHILDHOOD STUDIES BOOKS Undergraduate and postgraduate books for students studying early childhood and child and youth studies degree programmes. Large variety available for low cost. £1 – £2 each 01704546574

DEMIJOHNS Home wine making £2 each 01772814481

DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING Brilliant cut single stone, diamond colour and clarity verified.current valuation £675. £395 01704506539

DOLLS HOUSE EMPORIUM Rose cottage pale pink Georgian Windows (slightly yellowed) decorated with some furniture good condition £65.00 o.n.o. 01704539039

IPHONE 5 SMARTPHONE unlocked to any network, Black 16GB memory, excellent as new condition, perfect working order, original box, charger and cable £215 01704831977

KAREN MILLEN PURSE leopard print £10 07849969950

KEGS FOR BREWING 5 gallon kegs for brewing £5 01772814481

MISC

LADIES SHOES heels and platforms all different styles and colours £5 07849969950

LADIES WIGS short length different colours and styles £5 07849969950

OVER 540 MARBLES £25 ono. 2 large brown pot jugs, hillstonia £15 each or both for £22 07747 655803

PINK CAMCORDER new in box £20 07849969950

POP–UP XMAS TREE 80 LED lights ribbon decoration 128cm high (never used) £15 0151 9292089

RADLEY CARD PURSE pink leather brand new £15 07849969950

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought £0 01704566210 after 6pm

SANITAS FOOT MASSAGER Heat function £20. Delta exercise bike with monitor £20. Harrier mini smart phone from EE £50 07989 072535

SILVER CURB CHAIN Excellent very heavy 200 gram solid silver curb neck chain 20 inch, would make very nice present. £165 01704831977

STRONG CURVED metal fireguard. £10 07934 795018

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Announcements

QUEENSCOURT *2000* DRAW RESULTS

1146753

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Guildford Road, Southport

£1500 = 16542 £100 = 19202

Winners of £20 are as follows:

14472	27066
27764	24874
18114	16091
11133	20492
25929	29308
19332	26800
12087	28476
29373	26941
27502	22418
29184	11387

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS

1146706

11/12/15

£1000.....Mrs Wardlaw, Formby
£250.....Mrs Austin, Bootle
£100.....Mr Holt, Chorley
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

1146786

Queenscourt

WINTER RAFFLE WINNERS

Draw held at Queenscourt Hospice, Town Lane, Southport, PR9 8DN on 10 December 2015

PRIZE	AMOUNT	TICKET NO.	WINNER LIVES IN
1st	£2000	**022066**	Janes Brook Road, Southport
2nd	£500	**026986**	Saunders Street, Southport
3rd	£250	**126820**	Ryburn Road Ormskirk
4th	£100	**299646**	Thorndale Skelmersdale
5th	£50	**045544**	Selworthy Road Southport

A big THANK YOU to all who purchased tickets and gave donations. Your support has been fantastic. All profits from our draws go towards the running and upkeep of our hospice which relies on public support to provide a high standard of care to our patients.
For those of you who did not win perhaps a try at our weekly lottery will bring better luck? It costs only £1 a week to enter and there is a prize fund of £2000 every week. Please contact our Lottery Office for details (01704 562715) or pick up a form from reception or one of our shops.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

KENYON Cliff

Myra, Lorna and Christopher would like to thank all of Cliff's family, friends, neighbours, fellow committee members, work colleagues and bowling buddies for all their wonderfully kind words, condolence cards and very generous donations. The sheer number of people who sent cards and attended both the services at Halsall Church and Southport Crematorium and the wake at Haskayne Village Hall is a testimony to the kind thoughts you all had of Cliff and will bring much comfort to them over the coming days and months. All of your kindness is so very much appreciated. They would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Paramedics, Doctors and Nurses who cared for Cliff in his final hours. They would also like to thank The Reverend Paul Robinson for a beautiful service, memories from which they will treasure. Also they would very much like to thank Derek Crawford of Hunters Funeral Directors for the heartfelt compassion shown throughout this very difficult time. Many many thanks to you all. 1146661

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SIXSMITH Gerald

The family of the late Gerald Sixsmith wish to express their sincere thanks to family and friends who were there for us at this very sad time. Thank you for the sympathy cards received and the generous donations to Cancer Research UK. Special thanks to the Reverend Judith Ball for a lovely celebration service at Upholland Parish Church. Thanks to all the staff at Wigan Infirmary MAU Ward for their incredible care of Gerald. Also thank you to all the staff at W. Banks Funeral Service, Orrell. 45340

DEATHS

MAHER EVA LUISA

On December 11th 2015 at Queenscourt Hospice

Cherished Mum to Peter, Stephen, Martin, Ray and Mother-in-law to Elizabeth and Ingrid

Devoted Oma to her Grandchildren

Burial at Thornton Cemetery on Wednesday 23rd December at 2.15pm followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Aughton Park Baptist Church at 3.00pm

Family flowers only but donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses or Queenscourt Hospice, Southport 45463

Announcements

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392** or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

DEATHS

PRINCE ANN

8th December 2015

The angels took you while you slept

We never got a chance to say goodbye. You are at peace now and will be forever in our hearts.

Love you always.

Karan, Frank, Mark and Lauren
XXXX
45371

DEATHS

GILL Elizabeth

On 8th December 2015 Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family, aged 90 years

Loving wife of the late Charles, devoted mum of Ray and Joan, dear mother-in-law of Carol and Barry, cherished nan and great nan of all her grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Pauls Church on Thursday 17th December at 1.45pm followed by committal at St Helens Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice or Marie Curie. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868. 1146743

DEATHS

HOUGHTON MARGARET

9th December 2015

Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale. Aged 63 years

The dearly loved wife of Keith, loving mum of Kerry and Mandy, dear mother in law of Marc, devoted nan of Ben and Billy and much loved sister of Wayne. Funeral service at St Helens Crematorium on Friday 18th December 2015 at 10.30am. Floral tributes welcome. H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale. Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012 1146705

DEATHS

WHALLEY MARGARET (PEGGY)

In hospital on 5th December 2015

Aged 95 years.

Dearly loved wife of the late John, mother of Sue and John, Tom and Anne, grandmother of Andrew and Emma, great-grandmother of Daniel, Holly and Isabelle. Requiem Mass and interment at St Elizabeth's R.C. Church, Scarisbrick on Friday 18th December at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if so desired, may be given at the service for Crossroads Care Northwest, Ormskirk, or sent to MJ Brookfield, 73-75 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AJ. Tel 01704 532106 1146729

DEATHS

WILLACY William (Bill)

11th December 2015

Departed this life aged 101 years with great care and kindness at Halcyon House

He will be missed always by his daughter Annette, son-in-law Alan and his proud grandchildren, Adam, Simon, Rachael, Matthew and their families. R.I.P. Funeral service will take place on Tuesday 22nd December at St Peters Church, Formby at 1.00pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Halcyon House c/o & all enquiries to Coyne Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE. Tel 01704 873899. 1146774

DEATHS

PRINCE Ann

On 8th December 2015 Peacefully in hospital, aged 72 years

Loving wife of the late Brian, devoted mum of Karan and David, dear mother-in-law of Frank and Diane, cherished nan of Jade, James, Mark and Lauren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service will take place at St Pauls Church on Friday 18th December at 10.00am followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery.

All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868. 1146742

DEATHS

PRINCE ANN

Passed away peacefully on 8th December 2015

Mum, taken away from us so suddenly, you were the bravest woman we have ever known in the short time you had left. You will always be loved and in our thoughts forever.

Good night. God bless.
David, Diane, Jade and James
XXXX
45761

DEATHS

WARBRICK Julie Rose

On 6th December 2015

Aged 10 years

Farewell Julie Rose.
To all our hearts so dear,
often we'll bathe your memory with a tear,
short was your life,
but long your rest.
God called you soon because he saw it best.
Loving daughter of Heather and Stephen. Brave sister of Callum and Danny. Cherished grandaughter, dear niece and cousin. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Richards Church on Monday 21st December at 12.30pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for the Ronald McDonald House Alder Hey Hospital. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868. 1146744

DEATHS

ABBOTT LILY

8th December 2015

Peacefully aged 90 years of Skelmersdale.

The dearly loved wife of the late Pat, loving mum of Jim (deceased), Pat, Christine and Margaret, dear mother in law of Mick and Nigel and a devoted nan, great grandma and great great grandma. A good friend to everyone. Funeral service and interment took place at St Richards RC Church, Skelmersdale on Tuesday 15th December 2015. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale. Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012. 1146681

DEATHS

McKENZIE Patricia (Pat)

10th December 2015 Peacefully in hospital after a short illness, aged 65 years

Loving wife of Harry, devoted mum of Allison, Craig and Alan, cherished nanny and great nanny of all her grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Pauls Church on Tuesday 22nd December at 9.45am followed by interment at St Helens Cemetery. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868. 1146779

DEATHS

BLUNDELL GILBERT

(Former long-standing Trader in the old Southport Market) on 7th December 2015 Aged 98 years

Loving husband of the late Marjorie, and dearly loved by all of his family, daughter Sue and son-in-law Geoff, grandchildren Lee and Lynne, great grand-daughter Natalie. The family would also like to thank the staff of 'H' Ward, Ormskirk Hospital for all their care and attention to the very end. The funeral service will be held at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 17th December at 2:00pm. Family flowers only please, but donations in memory of Gil are being gratefully received for North West Air Ambulance. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone 01704 500086. 1146682

Christmas Deadlines

Due to the Christmas and Boxing Day Bank Holidays, the booking deadline for Private Advertisements is as follows:

For publication **Wednesday 30th Dec**
DEADLINE 5pm Wednesday 23rd Dec

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas

1146791

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Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

ROUGHLEY DEREK

27th December 2013

All I will ever wish for
Is to hug you
really tight.
To feel again your
loving arms.
That held me safe
at night.

Your loving wife Jean
and all the family.
XXX

45369

IN MEMORIAM

GALLAGHER Jane

20th December 2015

A year without you, sadly missed

Dear Jane,
Always so caring, unselfish and kind, few on this earth your equal I'll find. Sincere and true in all your ways, loving and faithful to the end of your days. Loved by your family, friends and all whom you knew, one in a million, that woman was you. A year has passed, my hearts always sore, as time goes on I miss you more. A loving Sister and friend, considerate and kind, what beautiful memories you left behind. Today, tomorrow, my whole life through, I shall always love and remember you. Your loving Brother and friend, Peter X X

6124099

IN MEMORIAM

GALLAGHER Jane

20th December 2014

Greatly missed

Can't believe one year has passed, still hurts so much. We miss you more than words can say, life is not the same without you. This was your favourite time of year but will never be the same now. Always in our thoughts.
With Love Husband Steve, Children Michael, Sarah & Jamie, Their Partners Peter, Neil & Louise and your little stars Stevie, Laycie, Nile & Darcey Jane
XXXX
GOODNIGHT
GOD BLESS
MISS YOU ALWAYS

6124237

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

WILLIAMS Jill (Bennett)

22nd December

Birthday memories
of a dear
daughter and sister

Unseen, unheard,
you are always near,
So loved, so missed,
so very dear.

Love you Jill

Mum, David, Nigel,
Julie and Ian
XXXXX

45250

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1146781

PRAYER

MUCH Grateful Thanks To St Jude For Novenas Answered M.E. (45753)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BESCAR LANE, SCARISBIRCK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycles from proceeding over that length of Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick from 20 meters either side of the level crossing, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows

No Diversion Available.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable bridge works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 0001 hours until 0530 hours on Wednesday 16th December 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/898/HD]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

1146650

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(POOL HEY LANE, SCARISBIRCK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycles from proceeding over that length of Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick from 20 meters either side of the level crossing, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows

Pool Hey Lane – Wyke Road – Wyke Cop Road – Snape Green – A570 Southport Road – Pool Hey Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable bridge works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 0001 hours until 0530 hours on Tuesday 15th December 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/897/HD]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

1146651

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Application No: 2015/1091/FUL Erection of eight dwellings at Legh Arms, The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2015/1161/FUL Construction of building for biomass boiler and change of use of land to nature habitat at Lavender Barn/ Mill House Farm, Greens Lane, Downholland.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING
Application No: 2015/1178/FUL Biomass boiler installation at Lancashire Manor Hotel, Prescott Road, East Pimbo, Up Holland.
Application No: 2015/1230/FUL Erect a two storey purpose build student accommodation building to the rear of The Elms, 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk and to join this new block to the existing Grade II listed building following demolition of existing outrigger extension. The existing building will also be converted to student accommodation at 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2015/1231/LBC Listed Building Consent - Erect a two storey purpose build student accommodation building to the rear of The Elms, 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk and to join this new block to the existing Grade II listed building following demolition of existing outrigger extension. The existing building will also be converted to student accommodation at 5 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 16th December 2015
PDNOT877

1146745

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application has been made by Zen Shin Ltd to the Licensing Authority of West Lancashire Borough Council for a premises licence for Subway, 31a Church Street, Ormskirk to provide late night refreshment between 11pm and 3am daily.
Full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority at West Lancashire Borough Council, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale.
A Responsible Authority or any other person can make a written representation to the Licensing Authority at any time up to and including 6th January 2016.
It is an offence for anyone to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is unlimited.
Dated 10th December 2015.

1146660

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(PRESCOT ROAD, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycles from proceeding over that length of Prescot Road, Aughton from a point outside 232 for a distance of 30 meters heading in a northerly direction, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows

B5197 Prescot Road – Moss Delph Lane – A59 Northway – A59 Liverpool Road – Long Lane – Parrs Lane – B5197 Prescot Road – Town Green Lane – Winifred Lane A59 Northway and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable utility works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours until 1530 hours on Sunday 13th December 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/893/HD]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

1146649

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Licensing Service
GAMBLING ACT 2005
STATEMENT OF POLICY 2016

West Lancashire Borough Council acting as Licensing Authority pursuant to Section 2 of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act") hereby GIVE NOTICE that its Statement of Policy 2016 ("the Policy") prepared under the Act shall be published by being made available on West Lancashire Borough Council's website at http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/licensing and for inspection at the following place, from 6 January 2016:

West Lancashire Borough Council
Licensing Service
Robert Hodge Centre
Stanley Way
Skelmersdale WN8 8EE

The Policy shall come into effect on 31 January 2016 and sets out the principles that the Licensing Authority proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act.

Dated: **16th of December 2015**

D P Tilleray
Assistant Director Community Services

1146708

PUBLIC NOTICES

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEES FOR PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER, OPERATOR & VEHICLE LICENCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the Act), that West Lancashire Borough Council intends to vary the maximum fees specified in Section 70(2) of the Act to be charged for the granting of private hire and hackney carriage driver, vehicle and operator licences with effect from the 1st April **2016** as follows:

	Existing (2015/16)	Proposed (2016/17)	Unsuccessful application refund (2016/17)
Taxi Licensing – Hackney Carriage			
Hackney Carriage – new (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£282.22	£256.15	£82.38
Hackney Carriage – renewal (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£282.22	£242.03	£107.09
Hackney Carriage Driver – new (3 year licence)	£97.56	£148.28	N/A
Hackney Carriage Driver – renewal (3 year licence)	£73.15	£98.86	N/A
Taxi Licensing - Private Hire			
Private Hire Vehicle – new (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£257.37	£229.56	£82.38
Private Hire Vehicle – renewal (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£257.37	£215.44	£107.09
Private Hire Driver – new (3 year licence)	£91.92	£148.28	N/A
Private Hire Driver – renewal (3 year licence)	£67.51	£98.86	N/A
Private Hire Operator (5 year licence):			
1 - 10 Vehicles	£258.29	£215.65	£90.62
11 - 20 Vehicles	£289.90	£271.85	£189.47
21 - 30 Vehicles	£446.83	£428.37	£329.52
31 - 40 Vehicles	£574.38	£543.70	£444.85
41 - 50 Vehicles	£703.07	£708.56	£576.66
Over 50 Vehicles	£843.05	£808.37	£626.08
Taxi Licensing – general			
Transfer of Vehicle Licence (change of owner)	£27.21	£16.48	N/A
Change of Vehicle other than renewal + vehicle inspection fee	£41.02	£47.06	N/A
Replacement Vehicle Plate	£35.13	£16.48	N/A
Replacement Driver Badge	£31.73	£16.48	N/A
Duplicate Driver Licence	£27.21	£16.48	N/A
Duplicate Vehicle Licence	£34.00	£16.48	N/A
Re-sit Knowledge Test	£12.78	£16.48	N/A

A copy of this Notice will be displayed on the Council's website as well as deposited at Council Offices located at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale. The Notice will be open to public inspection without payment for a period of twenty-eight (28) days from the date of publication of this Notice. Any objections or representations in respect of the above-mentioned variation of licence fees may be made in writing to the Assistant Director Community Services within the period specified above.

Dated: 16th December 2015

Mr D Tilleray, Assistant Director Community Services
West Lancashire Borough Council, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8EE
www.westlancs.gov.uk

1146707

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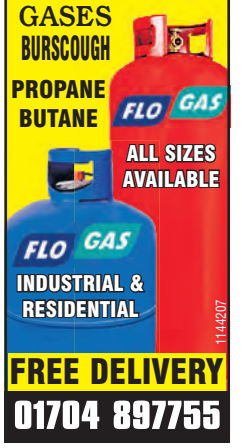
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Champion MOTORS

Porsche first electric model will be ready in the next decade

PORSCHE has given the green light for its first ever all–electric model to go into production. The German sports car maker – which already uses electric motors in its 918 hybrid supercar – said the new model will be based on the Mission E concept car shown earlier this year. Don't hold your breath, though – the production version won't be in the showrooms until the end of the decade.

Ssangyong Rexton given a series of stylish tweaks

SSANGYONG has given its biggest off–roader a series of stylistic tweaks and a new 2.2–litre turbodiesel engine. The updated version of the Rexton is also available with either a six–speed manual or a Mercedes–sourced seven–speed auto. It's available to order now, with prices starting from £22,995.

IPhone users will have instant connectivity

Vauxhall drivers will be able to enjoy the latest technology in the Insignia.

VAUXHALL is making a swish gadget system that allows iPhone owners to connect up instantly available on the Insignia. The system, called Intellilink, will be offered as standard on the range–topping Nav models and as a £1,000 option on the Energy, Limited Edition and SE models. It can also be used to provide a Wi–Fi hotspot for up to seven devices within the car.

Renault launch dual clutch system

RENAULT'S Twingo is now available with a clever new gearbox that uses two clutches to make changes smoother and more economical. The £900 Efficient Dual Clutch system uses an automatic–style selector, with the ideal gear being selected by a computer control unit. It's available to order now, with the first EDC–equipped cars arriving here in January.

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Off–roaders are deeply unfashionable – until their rescue efforts are desperately needed

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER

STORM DESMOND was horrid – and I wasn't even in it.

It's deeply saddening to see the picturesque villages being mauled by the savagery of the waters.

Yet I did spot one good thing – other than the sheer generosity of people pitching in to help – to come out of all the depressing news coverage. Footage of off–roaders doing useful things and helping with the rescue efforts.

Chances are if it wasn't a commandeered canoe or a dinghy doing the rescue work, it was a Land Rover Defender or a Mitsubishi Shogun. Lots of my petrolhead pals rail against my love of off–roaders and argue they're thirsty, expensive and don't handle properly, and in most cases, they're right.

But when the chips are down you'll want a rugged off–roader on your side.

The Defender's still the 4x4 of choice for the rescue agencies, but don't fret if you can't afford the £23,100 for a new one.

On the same weekend Storm Desmond was doing its worst a mate and I went green–laning in a 1998 Range Rover – a fully working, leather lined mountain goat of a motor that cost just £1700.

If you're scared of the Rangie's running costs there's the Vauxhall Frontera – all it took was a quick flick through the classifieds to find three for under a grand. It's the same story with the Suzuki Jimny, the Isuzu Trooper and the older iterations of Jeep's Cherokee.

They're cheap because they're out of fashion, but any of this lot will run rings around a Qashqai or a Captur should the gritters forget to call by your place over Christmas.

David Simister is features editor of Classic Car Weekly

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51 BMW 530D SE TOURING AUTO, metallic blue, PAS, e/w, sat nav, alloys..... **£2,695**

06 VOLVO S60 DIESEL 2.4 D5 SE, manual 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, leather **£2,695**

06 VAUXHALL ASTRA TWIN TOP CONVERTIBLE, 1800cc, 5spd, red, PAS, e/windows,, C/locking, A/C, CD, alloys, 50,000 miles **£2,995**

09 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2 5spd, 5dr, met black, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, service history..... **£2,995**

53 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 3DR 1400cc, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, alloys, nice car..... **£1,695**

55 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, pan roof, 1 lady owner **£2,295**

05 CITROEN C4 COUPÉ ZXR, black, leather, A/C, e/w, ABS, alloys... **£1,695**

53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, 37,000 miles only, low insurance..... **£1,695**

7 SEATERS

57 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 1600cc 5spd, met blue, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, alloys, 7 seats, great value **£2,995**

56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 1600cc, met grey, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, A/C, alloys, 7 seats, 71,000 miles **£2,695**

06 FORD FIESTA STYLE 1.25 5spd, Colorado red, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, A/C, low insurance..... **£1,995**

55 VAUXHALL ASTRA AUTO 1.6 5dr, met gold, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, ABS, 58,000 miles..... **£2,695**

05 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 S 3-dr 5spd, in met blue, PAS, e/windows, c/locking, CD, 1 owner from new..... **£1,295**

03 RENAULT MEGANE 1600 5spd hatch 5dr, met red, half leather, PAS, c/locking, climate, alloys **£1,295**

53 PEUGEOT 206 SW ESTATE, met blue, half leather, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, alloys..... **£1,295**

52 RENAULT SCENIC 1600cc 5spd, PAS, E/W, C/L, S/roof, lots of history **£995**

51 FORD MONDEO ZETEC 1800cc 5dr, met black..... **£895**

V BMW 520i SE 5spd, met blue, PAS, E/W, alloys..... **£950**

T ROVER 416, met green, PAS, E/W, 59k..... **£595**

56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 TDI 5spd, met blue, half leather, PAS E/W c/locking, ABS, alloys, e/roof..... **£2,395**

05 VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1600cc, met red, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, roof rails **£1,295**

54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, in met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking..... **£1,295**

53 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI DIESEL AUTO 4X4, met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, A/C, ABS **£4,695**

52 RENAULT KANGOO VAN DIESEL, 1900cc, 5spd, PAS **£895**

51 MERCEDES C180 3dr HATCH, met silver, auto, PAS, pan roof, FSH, alloys **£2,195**

51 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI 4X4 AUTO, met silver, PAS, c/locking, A/C, alloys, 1 owner **£3,295**

01 Y VW BEETLE 1600cc 5spd, met blue, PAS, electric windows & central locking **£1,895**

V LAND ROVER FREELANDER 3DR, 1800cc 5spd, PAS, E/W, C/L, alloys..... **£1,595**

T LAND ROVER DISCOVERY ES TD5, 7 seater, met gold, leather, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, alloys **£2,695**

S MITSUBISHI SHOGUN GLS 2.8 T/Diesel, swb, blue/silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, alloys, s/roof, service history..... **£3,495**

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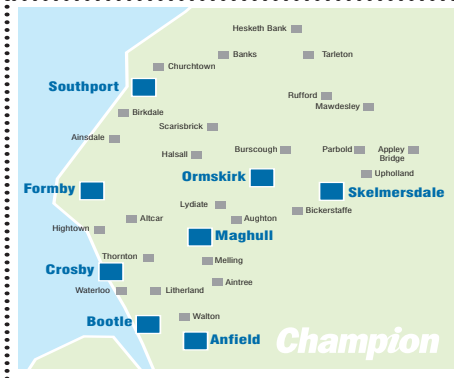

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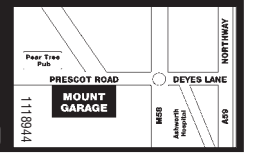

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Ormskirk & West Lancashire Champion

16 December 2015 | Vol 22 • Issue 51 | www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

Christmas just got tastier.

Irresistible roasts and your favourite festive veg aren't all you'll find in store this week. We've even got some half price gifts and bakery treats for the whole family to enjoy.

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Drive to encourage more players to take up golf

A DRIVE has been launched to encourage more people in Lancashire to take up golf.

England Golf, the game's national governing body, has appointed development officers, Debbie Barber and Adam McAlister with the brief to attract more players, increase membership and develop stronger clubs across the county.

Golf facilities in Lancashire are already backing England Golf's national campaign, Raising our Game, which includes supporting clubs as they seek to introduce newcomers to the sport through coaching for beginners and providing a positive pathway into club membership.

The Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs and Lancashire County Ladies Golf Association will also work closely with the area's PGA professionals.

Debbie and Adam will work alongside England Golf regional manager, Iain Lancaster, to develop and deliver national initiatives and programmes to make golf more accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

This includes supporting clubs with two initiatives, the Get into Golf campaign and the achievement of the GolfMark standard. Both promote a more inclusive and friendly approach towards newcomers, ensuring they can play regularly.

Lancastrian Adam, who has worked in sports development at home and abroad, will have responsibility for West Lancashire.

He said: "Golf is a sport for life and gives people the opportunity to stay fit, healthy, socialise and more importantly have some fun."

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Ashton hold no fears for Lawson's men

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skem boss eager to return to league action after near two–month break

WHEN – weather permitting – Skelmersdale United take to the field at home to Ashton United on Saturday, quite remarkably it will be only their second league game since October 27.

So, it's perhaps fair to say that it will be much–awaited by manager Tommy Lawson!

But before then they will take on AFC Fylde in the FA Trophy after Saturday's scheduled clash was postponed due to the monsoon that hit Lancashire.

The eventual winner of the tie will then get the honour of a real long–distance away game as their reward, being drawn out of the hat on Monday to play Eastbourne Borough away on Saturday, January 16 in the second round.

The Sussex–based club are members of National League South.

Skelmersdale's only Evo–Stik Premier Division game in November was a 2–1 victory at home to league leaders, Blyth Spartans. So, although Ashton are sixth in the table they won't hold many fears for Skem, especially since their last home game saw them beat National League North Chorley 5–2 in the FA Trophy.

One member of the Ashton team likely to get a warm welcome at Stormy Corner will be Adam Morning.

The much–travelled winger was a very popular member of the 2013 Skelmersdale title–winning side and is well known as something of a character.

Valtar Fernandes – a more than able stand–in for the absent Phil Mooney

At the tme of going to press, the result of last night's game (Tuesday) at Fylde is unknown but if it was a draw the replay will be on Tuesday, December 22, kick–off 7.45pm at Skem's Stormy Corner ground.

Next week Skelmersdale go into the hectic Christmas programme which will see them play three league games.

On Boxing Day, Saturday, December 26 they travel to Nantwich Town then on the bank holiday Monday, December 28 they stage a local derby against Marine, before a long–distance trip on Saturday, January 2 to make a first–ever visit to Sutton Coldfield Town. All three games are 3pm kick–offs.

Manager Tommy Lawson does have one injury, with Phil Mooney absent after an operation on a severed tendon in a finger that he injured against Chorley in the FA Trophy replay.

However, according to Tommy his replacement in the line–up will be Valtar Fernandes. The Portuguese was the club's player–of–the–year last season so he's not a bad stand–in!

Other than that Skelmersdale have a clean bill of health as they get ready for the crucial Christmas period.

As for the Eastbourne fixture, plenty will be spoken about that over the coming weeks, when, and if, it happens.

Meanwhile, anyone visiting Stormy Corner on Saturday would be well advised to take along an extra pound or two as there will be a chance to buy tickets for a 'Super Match Day Draw.'

Instead of the usual match–day raffle, Teresa, the club's raffle salesperson, will be selling tickets for a draw with a Christmas Hamper reportedly up for graps along with other prizes, so it's well worth a go.

Battling Burscough come back from behind twice to earn second Trophy crack at National League outfit

Burscough 2 Guiseley 2

BURSCOUGH had to come from behind twice to salvage a draw against National League side Guiseley in the FA Trophy first round at Victoria Park on Saturday.

And the Linnets – decided underdogs in view of the two sides' respective places in the football pyramid – could even have snatched a dramatic victory in the closing stages.

But they will have been happy to settle for a second bite at the cherry in the replay which was set to be played at Guiseley last night (Tuesday).

That this game went ahead at all was a tremendous credit to the Burscough groundstaff. The torrential rain that had pounded the region from the early hours of Saturday morning resulted in a number of Football League fixtures being called off but the Victoria Park surface was fine and the game was able to get underway as scheduled.

The home men started brightly and had a couple of early chances in what was otherwise a fairly uneventful first quarter.

But it was the visitors who opened the scoring on 20 minutes.

Will Hatfield played a ball across the area, the Burscough defence failed to clear and Tom Craddock was left alone at the back post to slot home.

The rest of the first half remained fairly uneventful with the difference that Guiseley had begun to get the upper hand after taking the lead and were probably good value for their one–goal advantage at the break.

Ten minutes into the second period Burscough should have been level. The ball was played across the area but somehow the home players in the goalmouth all failed to make contact and a good chance to get level was gone.

Then with 15 minutes left and Guiseley creating most of the chances, the Linnets were handed a lifeline when they were awarded a penalty after Michael Monaghan was fouled in the area and the same player stepped up to convert the resulting spot kick to level the scores.

However, 10 minutes later, Burscough's brave cup run looked to be over when Guiseley regained the lead when Danny Lowe's shot from the edge of the box seemed to hit a 'bobble' in the area and trickled past wrong–footed home keeper Calvin Hare.

The Linnets were not done yet though and with the clock ticking they earned a corner which was put into the box and headed home by Will Jones, much to the delight of the home fans.

And with just a minute of normal time remaining they had a chance to snatch an unlikely win only for the ball to sail over the bar to leave the scores locked at 2–2.

The winners of the last night's replay will face an away tie at Dulwich Town in the New Year in the next round of the FA Trophy.

Meanwhile, Burscough's next league game is set for this Saturday away to Glossop North End, kick–off 3pm.

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